

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

## NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Commissioner  
 US Department of Commerce  
 United States Patent and Trademark  
 Office, PCT  
 2011 South Clark Place Room  
 CP2/5C24  
 Arlington, VA 22202  
 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE  
 in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 19 January 2001 (19.01.01)	
International application No. PCT/AU00/00408	Applicant's or agent's file reference 40147143
International filing date (day/month/year) 05 May 2000 (05.05.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 06 May 1999 (06.05.99)
Applicant BRANDON, Malcolm, Roy et al	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:  
 06 December 2000 (06.12.00)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

2. The election ☒ was

☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer R. E. Stoffel
Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

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**PATENT COOPERATION TREATY**  
**PCT**  
**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT**

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>M40147143:DLT</b>	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416).
International Application No. <b>PCT/AU00/00408</b>	International Filing Date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) <b>5 May 2000</b>	Priority Date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) <b>6 May 1999</b>
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC <b>Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> A01K 67/00 C12N 5/16 15/06</b>		
Applicant <b>STEM CELL SCIENCES PTY LTD et al</b>		

1.	This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2.	This REPORT consists of a total of <b>3</b> sheets, including this cover sheet. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).  These annexes consist of a total of <b>8</b> sheet(s).
3.	This report contains indications relating to the following items:  I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand <b>6 December 2000</b>	Date of completion of the report <b>10 August 2001</b>
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU <b>AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929</b>	Authorized Officer  <b>CRAIG ALLATT</b> Telephone No. (02) 6283 2414

**I. Basis of the report****1. With regard to the elements of the international application:\***

- ☐ the international application as originally filed.
- ☒ the description, pages 1 - 4, 6 - 47, as originally filed,  
pages , filed with the demand,  
pages 5, received on 3 August 2001 with the letter of 1 August 2001
- ☒ the claims, pages , as originally filed,  
pages , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19,  
pages , filed with the demand,  
pages 48 - 54, received on 3 August 2001 with the letter of 1 August 2001
- ☒ the drawings, pages 1 - 3 , as originally filed,  
pages , filed with the demand,  
pages , received on with the letter of
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:  
pages , as originally filed  
pages , filed with the demand  
pages , received on with the letter of

**2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.**

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

**3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:**

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

**4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:**

- ☐ the description, pages
- ☐ the claims, Nos.
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig.

**5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).\*\***

\* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

\*\* Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims 1 - 34	YES
	Claims	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1 - 34	YES
	Claims	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1 - 23, 27 - 34	YES
	Claims 24 - 27	NO

**2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)**

The following documents identified in the International Search Report have been considered for the purposes of this report:

D1 K. Niwa et al *Development Growth and Differentiation* (1999) 41 pp163-72

New Citations

D2 K. Gasaryan et al *Nature* (1979) 280 pages 585 - 7

Novelty (N) & Inventive Step (IS)

The claims are novel and inventive in light of D1 and D2. In both D1 and D2 diploid animals are created through a process of transferring a diploid nucleus to a recipient cell, followed by loss of the recipient cell's nucleus and formation of a new animal. In both D1 and D2 the recipient cell's nucleus is lost via natural processes.

The current invention is the first to recognise that deliberately transferring a donor diploid nucleus into a recipient cell containing its nucleus will result in reprogramming of the donor nucleus. The current application is distinguished from the prior art by the intentional removal or destruction of the recipient cell's nucleus. This intentional removal of the recipient cell's nucleus explicitly recognises that the donor nucleus is reprogrammed by the process of the invention. The prior art allowed random natural processes to lose the recipient cell's nucleus and did not recognise that the process could be used to reprogramme the donor cell's nucleus.

Industrial Applicability (IA)

Claims 24 - 27 are not Industrially Applicable as they contain within their scope Humans. Humans are not suitable subject matter for patents.

These claims are directed to products of processes i.e. cells per se which may included human cells. However, while process claims are generally acceptable as they require the direct intervention of man, this process results in totipotent cells i.e. cells that are capable of becoming a new organism. As the process may be applied to donor cells from any organism and recipient cells from any organism, this clearly includes human cells. Human donor cells to which the process has been applied have the potential to become a new human, as may human recipient cells. Consequently, these claims are not industrially applicable.

embodiment embryonic cells such as embryonic stem cells or other pluripotent stem cell lines, embryonic germ cells or primordial germ cells may be used.

It is particularly preferred that the donor cells be at a particular stage in the cell cycle, for example G<sub>0</sub>, G<sub>1</sub> or S-phase. Applicant has found that it is possible to isolate populations of cells which are enriched for cells at each stage in the cell cycle by sorting the cells on the basis of size, for example using FACS. This avoids the use of stains, which may be toxic to the cells. Staining can be used on a sample of each size-sorted population to identify what stage in the cell cycle that population is at.

The donor nucleus may be from a normal, abnormal or from genetically modified cell. Donor nuclei may be isolated directly from an animal cell, from an animal cell culture or from an established cell line. Abnormal cells include cells with known or unknown genetic mutations including gene and other chromosomal mutations, deletions, rearrangements, substitutions and/or duplications.

The recipient cell may be of any suitable type and from any suitable species. The recipient cell may be an *in vivo* or *in vitro* produced oocyte. Oocytes may be, for example, germinal vesicle (GV) stage or metaphase I (MI) immature oocytes, or oocytes arrested in the second metaphase of meiotic maturation (MII oocytes). Other sources of recipient cells include zygotes, fertilised oocytes, embryonic blastomeres (e.g. 2-cell blastomeres) and cell lines produced from gonads, germ cell tumours or any other cell type suitable for allowing the successful addition of a nucleus. In addition, the recipient cell may be a pluripotent cell such as an embryonic stem (ES) cell, embryonic germ cell or primordial germ cell [which includes cells isolated from cell lines, primary cultures or isolated cells from the inner cell mass (ICM), embryonic disc (ED), embryonic ectoderm or primordial germ cells (PGCs)], a cell derived from a tumor including an embryonal tumor may be used (eg. embryonal carcinoma (EC) or yolk sac tumor cells). Somatic cell recipients such as neural or haematopoietic stem cells may be used as a source of recipient cell. Oocytes, for example arrested in the second metaphase of meiotic maturation (MII oocytes) are preferred.

**CLAIMS**

1. A method of preparing a reprogrammed diploid cell which method includes  
providing  
5 a diploid donor cell or diploid donor nucleus, and  
a recipient cell;  
introducing the donor cell or donor nucleus into the recipient cell to produce  
an aneuploid cell;  
maintaining the aneuploid cell in a suitable environment for a period  
10 sufficient to allow the donor nucleus to be reprogrammed;  
optionally subjecting the aneuploid cell to an activation step; and  
generating a reprogrammed diploid cell from said reprogrammed aneuploid  
cell by substantial removal or substantial destruction of the recipient cell nucleus,  
pronucleus, metaphase plate, chromatin, chromosomes or nuclear DNA from said  
15 reprogrammed aneuploid cell.
2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the recipient cell is an  
oocyte, zygote, or embryonic blastomere.
3. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the oocyte is a metaphase  
II oocyte.
- 20 4. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the recipient cell is an  
embryonic stem cell, embryonic germ cell, primordial germ cell, embryonal  
carcinoma cell or other pluripotent stem cell.
5. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the donor nucleus or cell is  
a somatic cell or nucleus derived therefrom.
- 25 6. A method according to Claim 5, wherein the donor nucleus or cell is  
a cumulus cell or nucleus derived therefrom.
7. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the donor nucleus or cell is

an embryonic cell or nucleus derived therefrom.

8. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the donor nucleus or cell is a germ cell or nucleus derived therefrom.

9. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the donor nucleus or cell is  
5 an embryonic stem cell, embryonic germ cell, primordial germ or a somatic stem cell or nucleus derived therefrom.

10. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the donor nucleus or cell is transferred to the recipient cell by piezo-assisted micromanipulation.

11. A method according to Claim 1, wherein nucleus or nuclear DNA of  
10 the recipient cell is substantially removed or destroyed prior to division of the aneuploid cell.

12. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the donor cell is reprogrammed to an embryonic cell.

13. A method according to Claim 12 wherein the reprogrammed cell is  
15 capable of forming an animal embryo containing pluripotent embryonic cells.

14. A method according to Claim 13, wherein a pluripotent stem cell is derived from the pluripotent embryo cells.

15. A method according to Claim 14, wherein an embryonic stem cell line is produced.

20 16. A method of preparing a reprogrammed genetically modified diploid cell, said method including providing

a diploid donor cell or diploid donor nucleus which donor cell or nucleus has been genetically modified to eliminate or reduce an undesirable  
25 activity or to provide for or increase a desirable activity, and a recipient cell;

introducing the donor cell or nucleus into the recipient cell to produce an aneuploid cell;

maintaining the aneuploid cell in a suitable environment for a period sufficient to allow the donor nucleus to be reprogrammed;

5 optionally subjecting the aneuploid cell to an activation step; and

generating a reprogrammed genetically modified diploid cell from said reprogrammed aneuploid cell by substantial removal or substantial destruction of the recipient cell nucleus, pronucleus, metaphase plate, chromatin, chromosomes or nuclear DNA from said reprogrammed aneuploid cell.

10 17. A method of preparing a reprogrammed genetically abnormal cell, said method including

providing

a diploid donor cell or diploid donor nucleus which donor cell or nucleus is derived from a genetically abnormal cell, such as a cell from an animal or person with a genetic disease, and

15 a recipient cell;

introducing the donor cell or nucleus into the recipient cell to produce an aneuploid cell;

20 maintaining the aneuploid cell in a suitable environment for a period sufficient to allow the donor nucleus to be reprogrammed;

optionally subjecting the aneuploid cell to an activation step; and

25 generating a reprogrammed genetically abnormal cell with an equivalent genetic composition to the said abnormal donor cell nucleus from said reprogrammed aneuploid cell by substantial removal or substantial destruction of the recipient cell nucleus, pronucleus, metaphase plate, chromatin, chromosomes or nuclear DNA from said reprogrammed aneuploid cell.

18. A method of restoring or improving function of a tissue or organ, said method including

providing

30 an animal, and

one or more reprogrammed cells according to Claim 1 or derivatives of said cells;



transferring the cells or derivatives thereof to the animal, preferably at or near the site of said tissue or organ; and

allowing the transferred cells or derivatives thereof to repopulate said tissue or organ.

- 5           19.    A method of gene therapy, said method including providing  
                  an animal, and  
                  one or more genetically modified, reprogrammed cells according to Claim 16 or derivatives of said cells;  
10           transferring the cells or derivatives thereof to the animal; and  
                  allowing said cells or derivatives thereof to repopulate in said animal to provide gene therapy.

20.    A method according to Claim 1, further including the step of generating a cell line, tissue, organ or animal embryo from said reprogrammed  
15           cell.

             21.    A method according to Claim 20, further including the step of generating a non-human animal from said animal embryo.

22.    A method according to Claim 16, including the further step of generating a genetically modified cell, cell line, tissue or organ or a transgenic  
20           animal embryo from said reprogrammed cell.

             23.    A method according to Claim 22, further including the step of generating a non-human transgenic animal from said animal embryo.

             24.    A cell produced by the method of Claim 1.

             25.    A genetically modified cell produced by the method of Claim 16.

- 25           26.    A cell, cell line, tissue, organ or animal embryo produced by the method of Claim 20.

27. A genetically modified cell, cell line, tissue or organ or transgenic animal embryo produced by the method of Claim 22.

28. A non-human animal produced by the method of Claim 21.

29. A non-human transgenic animal produced by the method of Claim

5 23.

30. A method of generating an animal embryo which method includes providing

a diploid donor nucleus, and

a recipient cell; and

10 introducing the donor nucleus into to the recipient cell to produce an aneuploid cell;

optionally subjecting the aneuploid cell to an activation step;

15 generating a reprogrammed diploid cell from said aneuploid cell by substantial removal or substantial destruction of the recipient cell nucleus, pronucleus, metaphase plate, chromatin, chromosomes or nuclear DNA from said aneuploid cell; and

generating an animal embryo from said reprogrammed diploid cell.

20 31. A method of generating a transgenic animal embryo said method including

providing

a diploid donor nucleus which has been genetically modified to eliminate or reduce an undesirable activity or to provide for, or increase, a desirable activity, and

25 a recipient cell;

adding the donor nucleus to the recipient cell to produce a genetically modified aneuploid cell;

optionally subjecting the aneuploid cell to an activation step;

30 generating a reprogrammed diploid cell from said aneuploid cell by substantial removal or substantial destruction of the recipient cell nucleus,

pronucleus, metaphase plate, chromatin, chromosomes or nuclear DNA from said aneuploid cell; and

generating a transgenic animal embryo from said reprogrammed diploid cell.

5           32. A method of preparing an aneuploid or reprogrammed diploid cell which method includes

providing

a diploid donor nucleus,

an exogenous nucleic acid molecule, and

10           a recipient cell;

introducing the donor nucleus and the exogenous nucleic acid molecule into the recipient cell to produce an aneuploid cell; and

optionally generating a reprogrammed diploid cell from said aneuploid cell by substantial removal or substantial destruction of the recipient cell nucleus,  
15           pronucleus, metaphase plate, chromatin, chromosomes or nuclear DNA.

33. A method of generating a transgenic animal embryo which method includes

providing

a diploid donor nucleus,

20           an exogenous nucleic acid molecule, and

a recipient cell;

introducing the donor nucleus and the exogenous nucleic acid molecule into the recipient cell to produce an aneuploid cell;

optionally generating a reprogrammed diploid cell from said aneuploid cell  
25           by substantial removal or substantial destruction of the recipient cell nucleus, pronucleus, metaphase plate, chromatin, chromosomes or nuclear DNA; and

generating a transgenic animal embryo from the aneuploid or reprogrammed diploid cell.

34. A method of preparing a reprogrammed diploid embryonic cell or  
30           embryo which method includes

providing

a diploid donor cell or diploid donor cell nucleus, and  
a recipient oocyte or embryonic cell;

introducing the donor cell or donor cell nucleus into the recipient oocyte or  
embryonic cell to produce an aneuploid cell;

5 maintaining the aneuploid cell in a suitable environment for a period  
sufficient to allow the donor cell nucleus to be reprogrammed;

optionally subjecting the aneuploid cell to an activation step; and

generating a reprogrammed diploid embryonic cell or embryo from said  
reprogrammed aneuploid cell by substantial removal or substantial destruction of  
10 the recipient cell nucleus, pronucleus, metaphase plate, chromatin, chromosomes  
or nuclear DNA from said reprogrammed aneuploid cell or one or more of its  
daughter cells.

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 40147143	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> </div> <div style="width: 55%;"> see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below. </div> </div>
International application No. PCT/AU00/00408	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;">International filing date (day/month/year) 5 May 2000</div> <div style="width: 55%;">(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 6 May 1999</div> </div>
Applicant STEM CELL SCIENCES PTY LTD et al	

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 4 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

**1. Basis of the report**

a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

2. ☒ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (See Box II).

4. With regard to the title, ☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

A process of cell reprogramming through production of a heterokaryon

5. With regard to the abstract, ☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant

☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☐ as suggested by the applicant.

☒ None of the figures

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU00/00408

**Box I** Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos : 1 - 32 partially

because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

The claims included within their scope processes for the generation of humans. The claim are directed to the production of reprogrammed animal cells, which includes reprogrammed human cells. The claims have not been searched in so far as they include reprogramming of human cells.

2. ☐ Claims Nos :

because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ☐ Claims Nos :

because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

**Box II** Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU00/00408

## Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

The invention is directed to reprogramming an adult cell nucleus to produce an embryo. The process involves:

- taking a donor cell or nucleus;
- fusing the donor nucleus with a recipient cell that has not been enucleated to produce an aneuploid cell;
- waiting a period of time to allow the donor nucleus to be reprogrammed; and
- removing the recipient cell nucleus.

This process results in an embryo with a reprogrammed nucleus.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU00/00408

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl. <sup>7</sup>: A01K 67/00 C12N 5/16 15/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

SEE ELECTRONIC DATA BASES

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

MEDLINE: "cloning, organism"/CT AND "cell nucleus: tr, transplantation"/CT

WPIDS: (nuclear OR nucleus) AND (C12N 5/06 OR C12N 5/22 OR C12N 5/16 OR C12N 15/06 OR C12N 15/07 C12N 08)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	Katsutoshi Niwa et al <i>Development Growth and Differentiation</i> (1999) pp 163-172 "Transplantation of blastula nuclei to non-enucleated eggs in the medaka, <i>Oryzias latipes</i> " Whole document	1-32

☐

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C

☐

See patent family annex

## \* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"Q" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T"

later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&amp;"

document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

27 June 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

07 JUL 2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU

AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE  
PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA  
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**PCT**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION  
International Bureau

## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification <sup>7</sup> : <b>A01K 67/00, C12N 5/16, 15/06</b>		<b>A1</b>	(11) International Publication Number: <b>WO 00/67568</b>
			(43) International Publication Date: 16 November 2000 (16.11.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU00/00408		(74) Agents: TULLOCH, Debra et al.; Freehills Carter Smith & Beadle, Level 47, 101 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000 (AU).	
(22) International Filing Date: 5 May 2000 (05.05.00)			
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(54) Title: A PROCESS OF CELL REPROGRAMMING THROUGH PRODUCTION OF A HETEROKARYON			
(57) Abstract <p>This invention is directed to reprogramming an adult cell nucleus to produce an embryo. The process involves: taking a donor cell or nucleus; fusing the donor nucleus with a recipient cell that has not been enucleated to produce an aneuploid cell; waiting a period of time to allow the donor nucleus to be reprogrammed; and removing the recipient cell nucleus. This process results in an embryo with a reprogrammed nucleus.</p>			

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## A PROCESS OF CELL REPROGRAMMING THROUGH PRODUCTION OF A HETEROKARYON

This invention relates to the reprogramming of animal cells and animal cell nuclei by nuclear addition. The invention also relates to the generation of animal cells, cell lines, tissues, organs, embryos and non-human animals by methods involving nuclear addition.

Nuclear addition is the addition of the nucleus of one cell to that of another. Nuclear addition differs from nuclear transfer in that a nucleus is added to a non-enucleated cell which may then lose or be subjected to a subsequent removal (enucleation) of the recipient or host cell's nucleus or nuclear DNA. Nuclear addition has certain advantages over nuclear transfer which can enhance the efficiency of nuclear reprogramming and developmental competence for the generation of animal cells, cell lines, tissues, organs, embryos and animals for agricultural, medical, veterinary and research applications.

Nuclear transfer has been used to generate cloned offspring by transferring a donor nucleus into an oocyte from which the maternal chromosomes have first been removed or enucleated.

The ability to produce cloned offspring, for example by nuclear transfer, enables the production of large numbers of identical offspring and the opportunity to select for the desired animal genotype. For example, nuclear donor cell sources may be selected from animals, embryos, cultured cells or cultured cell lines on the basis of patient specific or donor matching of major histocompatibility genes, or animal gender, disease resistance, enhanced productivity traits or for any other reason. Similarly, nuclear donor cells may be selected from genetically engineered or modified cells for the production of transgenic cells, embryos and non-human animals.

Whilst cell reprogramming via nuclear transfer has been described in some animals, the procedures used are often inefficient.

It is an object of the present invention to overcome, or at least alleviate, one

or more of the difficulties or deficiencies associated with the prior art.

In a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of preparing a reprogrammed diploid cell which method includes

providing

- 5                   a donor cell or donor nucleus, and  
                  a recipient cell;

introducing the donor cell or donor nucleus into the recipient cell to produce an aneuploid cell;

maintaining the aneuploid cell in a suitable environment for a period  
10           sufficient to allow the donor nucleus to be reprogrammed; and

generating a reprogrammed diploid cell from said reprogrammed aneuploid cell by removal, destruction or loss of the recipient cell nucleus or nuclear DNA from said reprogrammed aneuploid cell.

Applicant has found that nuclear addition is potentially less disruptive than  
15   nuclear transfer. In nuclear addition, the donor nucleus is placed into an intact cell and is exposed to reprogramming factors. These reprogramming factors may be associated with the metaphase plate, cell nucleus, chromatin, chromosomes or DNA, or with the cytoplasmic components of the recipient cell which would normally be removed or depleted through nuclear transfer procedures. Nuclear  
20   addition allows the donor nucleus to be exposed to these factors with minimal disruption to cell function.

Nuclear addition involves the subsequent loss, destruction or removal (enucleation) of the recipient cell's metaphase plate, nucleus, chromatin, chromosomes or DNA following or simultaneously with the introduction of the  
25   donor nucleus. The length of time the donor cell is exposed to the reprogramming factors may be influenced by the process of enucleation. An aneuploid cell is produced when the donor nucleus is introduced to the recipient cell. An aneuploid cell for the purposes of this document includes polyploid cells. The cell remains an aneuploid cell if the cell's metaphase plate, nucleus, chromatin, chromosomes or  
30   nuclear DNA is not lost, removed or destroyed following nuclear addition of the donor cell's nucleus. A reconstituted diploid cell is a cell where subsequent to or

simultaneously with nuclear addition, the recipient cell's metaphase plate, nucleus, pronucleus, chromatin, chromosomes or nuclear DNA is lost from the cell, removed from the cell or destroyed.

The methods of the present invention may be used to generate cells which are reprogrammed, for example at least partially reprogrammed (e.g. de-differentiated) to an alternate somatic cell state, or substantially fully reprogrammed (eg. de-differentiated) to an embryonic cell fate. For example, a gene or genes associated with the reprogrammed state may be activated and/or a gene or genes expressed in the donor cell may be repressed in the reprogrammed cell.

The method of the present invention may be used to reprogram cells which have been genetically engineered. Nuclear donor cells may be selected from genetically engineered or modified cells for the production of genetically engineered stem cells, stem cell lines and stem cell-derived cells or cell lines, for example, pluripotent embryonic stem (ES) cells or ES-derived somatic cells which may be isolated, purified or propagated by the method known as stem cell selection.

Accordingly, in a second aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of preparing a reprogrammed genetically modified diploid cell, said method including

providing

a donor cell or donor nucleus which donor cell or nucleus has been genetically modified to eliminate or reduce an undesirable activity or to provide for or increase a desirable activity, and

a recipient cell;

introducing the donor cell or nucleus into the recipient cell to produce an aneuploid cell;

maintaining the aneuploid cell in a suitable environment for a period sufficient to allow the donor nucleus to be reprogrammed; and

generating a reprogrammed genetically modified diploid cell from said reprogrammed aneuploid cell by removal, destruction or loss of the recipient cell

nucleus or nuclear DNA from said reprogrammed aneuploid cell.

In a third aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of preparing a reprogrammed genetically abnormal cell, said method including providing

- 5                   a donor cell or donor nucleus which donor cell or nucleus is derived from a genetically abnormal cell, such as a cell from an animal or person with a genetic disease, and
- a recipient cell;
- introducing the donor cell or nucleus into the recipient cell to produce
- 10           an aneuploid cell;
- maintaining the aneuploid cell in a suitable environment for a period sufficient to allow the donor nucleus to be reprogrammed; and
- generating a reprogrammed genetically abnormal cell with an equivalent genetic composition to the said abnormal donor cell nucleus from said
- 15           reprogrammed aneuploid cell by removal, destruction or loss of the recipient cell nucleus or nuclear DNA from said reprogrammed aneuploid cell.

The reprogrammed cells may be used in basic and applied research, cell-based gene and drug screening, diagnostics, and/or cell-based gene and tissue therapies. More particularly, reprogrammed abnormal cells may be used in cell-

20           based gene and drug screening for the discovery and/or development of new therapeutic and prophylactic treatments for characterised and uncharacterised single gene and multigenic diseases.

The donor nucleus may be of any suitable type and from any suitable species. The donor nucleus may be contained in a karyoplast or cell. The donor

25           nucleus may be of embryonic, foetal, new born, juvenile or adult origin. Donor nuclei may be prepared by removing the nucleus and a portion of the cytoplasm and plasma membrane surrounding the donor nucleus from a suitable donor cell for example using microsurgery. Adult cells such as fibroblasts, cumulus cells, lymphocytes and neural cell types may be used. In a preferred embodiment, the

30           donor nucleus may be from a somatic cell, more preferably an adult somatic cell, or a somatic stem cell. Cell lines may be used. In a particularly preferred

embodiment embryonic cells such as embryonic stem cells or other pluripotent stem cell lines, embryonic germ cells or primordial germ cells may be used.

It is particularly preferred that the donor cells be at a particular stage in the cell cycle, for example G<sub>0</sub>, G<sub>1</sub> or S-phase. Applicant has found that it is possible to isolate populations of cells which are enriched for cells at each stage in the cell cycle by sorting the cells on the basis of size, for example using FACS. This avoids the use of stains, which may be toxic to the cells. Staining can be used on a sample of each size-sorted population to identify what stage in the cell cycle that population is at.

The donor nucleus may be from a normal, abnormal or from genetically modified cell. Donor nuclei may be isolated directly from an animal cell, from an animal cell culture or from an established cell line. Abnormal cells include cells with known or unknown genetic mutations including gene and other chromosomal mutations, deletions, rearrangements, substitutions and/or duplications.

The recipient cell may be of any suitable type and from any suitable species. The recipient cell may be an *in vivo* or *in vitro* produced oocyte. Oocytes may be, for example, germinal vesicle (GV) stage or metaphase I (MI) immature oocytes, or oocytes arrested in the second metaphase of meiotic maturation (MII oocytes). Other sources of recipient cells include zygotes, fertilised oocytes, embryonic blastomeres (e.g. 2-cell blastomeres) and cell lines produced from gonads, germ cell tumours or any other cell type suitable for allowing the successful addition of a nucleus. In addition, the recipient cell may be a pluripotent cell such as an embryonic stem (ES) cell, embryonic germ cell or primordial germ cell [which includes cells isolated from cell lines, primary cultures or isolated cells from the inner cell mass (ICM), embryonic disc (ED), embryonic ectoderm or primordial germ cells (PGCs)], a cell derived from a tumor including an embryonal tumor may be used (eg. embryonal carcinoma (EC) or yolk sac tumor cells). Somatic cell recipients such as neural or haematopoietic stem cells may be used as a source of recipient cell. Oocytes, for example arrested in the second metaphase of meiotic maturation (MII oocytes) are preferred.

The donor nucleus (or nuclei) or cell(s) may be transferred to the recipient cell by any suitable method. Such methods include, but are not limited to, microsurgical injection, and cell fusion for example mediated by electrical pulses (electrofusion), chemical reagents such as polyethyleneglycol, or the use of  
5 inactivated virus such as Sendai virus.

Preferably the donor nucleus is introduced, for example under the zona pellucida, by microsurgery.

In a particularly preferred embodiment the donor nucleus or cell may be transferred to the recipient cell by piezo-assisted micromanipulation.

10 In a preferred form of these aspects of the invention, the recipient cell may be subject to a pre-treatment step, although this step is optional. More particularly, the metaphase plate, nucleus, chromatin, pronucleus chromosomes or nuclear DNA of the recipient cell may be subjected to a pre-treatment step.

Pretreatment of the recipient cell/s may include incubation of the cell/s in a  
15 microfilament inhibitor, for example cytochalasin B that relaxes the cytoskeleton and facilitates the removal of a portion of membrane enclosed cytoplasm containing the recipient cell's pronuclei, metaphase plate, nucleus, chromosomes or DNA, concomitant with or preferably after a period of time following the introduction of the donor nucleus. Chemical treatments such as, but not limited to,  
20 one or a combination of taxol, etoposide demecolcine and cycloheximide may be used to assist in the disablement or expulsion of the recipient cell's metaphase plate, nucleus, pronucleus, chromatin, chromosomes or DNA from the cell concomitant with or preferably after a period of time following the introduction of the donor nucleus. Alternatively, non-chemical approaches may be used to assist  
25 in the disablement or expulsion of the recipient cell's metaphase plate, nucleus, chromatin, chromosomes or DNA from the cell which includes, but are not limited to, inactivation, disablement, damage or destruction of the metaphase plate, pronucleus, nucleus, chromatin, chromosomes and/or DNA by ultraviolet light (UV), laser or other forms of irradiation.



Pre-treatment may also include activation.

Activation occurs during fertilisation when the penetrating sperm triggers the resumption of meiosis. Activation is characterised by calcium oscillation, release of cortical granules, extrusion of the second polar body, pronuclear formation and ultimately cleavage. The recipient or aneuploid cell may be treated with, but not limited to, for example, ethanol, calcium ionophore or electrical stimulation to induce activation. Activation may be performed prior to, concomitant with, or after the transfer of the donor nucleus.

A preliminary activation step may be undertaken prior to transfer of the donor nucleus and may affect the reprogramming factors associated with the recipient cell's nucleus, pronucleus, metaphase plate, chromatin, chromosomes or DNA.

Pre-treatment may also include the disablement or destruction of the recipient cell's nucleus, pronucleus, metaphase plate, chromatin, chromosomes or DNA which may reduce or eliminate co-mingling of the recipient cell's nucleus, pronucleus, metaphase plate, chromatin, chromosomes or DNA with that of the donor. Embryos so formed may not be clones, and may, in turn, not develop to full-term.

The step of generating a reprogrammed diploid cell from said reprogrammed aneuploid cell may be performed by any suitable method. For example, the aneuploid cell may be maintained in a suitable environment for a period sufficient for the aneuploid cell to generate a diploid cell through loss of the recipient cell's metaphase plate, nucleus, pronucleus, chromatin, chromosomes or DNA from the aneuploid cell, or, the disproportionate distribution of the aneuploid cell's metaphase plate, nucleus, chromatin, chromosomes or DNA in the daughter cells of the aneuploid cell. Alternatively, the diploid cell may be generated by the removal of the recipient cell's metaphase plate, nucleus, pronucleus, chromatin, chromosomes or DNA from the aneuploid cell or a daughter cell of the aneuploid cell, or destruction of the recipient cell's metaphase plate, nucleus, pronucleus, chromatin, chromosomes or DNA in the aneuploid cell or a daughter cell of the

aneuploid cell.

In one form of these aspects of the present invention, the methods may include the further step of

substantially removing or substantially destroying the nucleus, pronucleus, metaphase plate, chromatin, chromosomes or DNA of the recipient cell, preferably prior to division of the aneuploid cell.

Removal or destruction of the nucleus, pronucleus, metaphase plate, chromatin, chromosomes or DNA of the recipient cell may be performed, for example, approximately 1 to 20, more preferably approximately 3 to 12, most preferably approximately 6 to 8 hours after completion of the nuclear addition procedure, and prior to first embryo cleavage. Destruction of the DNA may be achieved utilising chemical or laser or other radiation-based microsurgical techniques or the like.

Removal or destruction of the recipient cell's nucleus, pronucleus, metaphase plate, chromatin, chromosomes or DNA may occur spontaneously through a developmental self-correction mechanism(s) which would restore ploidy to some if not all cells.

Loss or removal of the recipient cell's metaphase plate, nucleus, chromatin, chromosomes or DNA may be assessed by the use DNA chelating agent such, as but not limited to, Hoechst 33342 and UV illumination, or the use of Pol-Scope imaging to visualise the recipient cell's metaphase plate, pro-nucleus, nucleus, chromatin or chromosomes.

In another form of these aspects of the invention, the methods may include the further steps of

providing a co-mingling inhibitor, and  
subjecting the aneuploid cell to a co-mingling inhibitor for a period sufficient to reduce or eliminate co-mingling of the recipient cell DNA and introduced DNA.

The co-mingling inhibitor may be a cytoskeletal (cytokinesis) or karyokinesis

inhibitor, for example, but not limited to, those selected from the group consisting of one or more of Cytochalasin B, Colcemid, Taxol or Nocodazole. The aneuploid cell may be exposed to the co-mingling inhibitor for a period, up to pronuclear formation, of for example approximately 1 to 6 hours after nuclear addition and  
5 preferably prior to embryo cleavage.

In another form of these aspects of the invention, the recipient cell may be enucleated substantially simultaneously with introduction of the donor cell or nucleus. Preferably the donor nucleus is introduced into the enucleated cell substantially immediately before enucleation. More preferably the donor nucleus  
10 is introduced into the enucleated cell via an incision site and the recipient nucleus is removed from the cell through the same incision site.

The methods of the present invention, may include the further step of subjecting the recipient cell, the aneuploid cell or the diploid cell to an activation step.

15 The recipient, aneuploid or diploid cell may be treated with, but not limited to, for example, ethanol, calcium ionophore or electrical stimulation to induce activation. Activation may be performed prior to, concomitant with, or after the transfer of the donor nucleus.

20 As discussed earlier, a preliminary activation step may be undertaken prior to transfer of the donor nucleus or the juxtaposed donor and recipient cells may be subjected to a cell fusion/activation step. For example, where electrical pulses are utilised for cell fusion, the voltage may be selected to simultaneously initiate activation.

25 The juxtaposed donor and recipient cells may be also subjected to simultaneous cell fusion/activation or a process of cell fusion followed later by activation.

The aneuploid cell is maintained in a suitable environment for a time sufficient to allow the donor nucleus or cell to be reprogrammed. Preferably, the

aneuploid cell is maintained in a suitable environment for a period of approximately 1 to 36 hours, more preferably approximately 1 to 8 hours. The aneuploid cell may be maintained in a suitable culture medium *in vitro*, or transferred to a surrogate animal and maintained *in vivo*.

- 5           The donor nucleus and recipient cell which are used in the method of the present invention may be of any suitable origin and need not be from the same species. Species to which the present invention may be applied include birds, fish, reptiles and mammals (including ungulates and primates). Preferably, the cells are of porcine, bovine, ovine, rodent, avian, fish, reptile, murine or human  
10   origin.

In a preferred embodiment, the methods of the present invention may include the further steps of

- removing the donor nucleus from the aneuploid cell; and  
          introducing said removed donor nucleus into a second recipient cell  
15   (enucleated or non-enucleated) to produce a reprogrammed second cell, a genetically modified reprogrammed second cell or a genetically abnormal reprogrammed second cell.

- In a preferred embodiment of the methods of the present invention, the removed donor nucleus may be from an embryo that is itself the product of  
20   nuclear addition or nuclear transfer. The former is known as serial nuclear addition.

- Serial nuclear addition or a combination of nuclear addition and nuclear transfer may improve the capacity of differentiated nuclei to direct normal development. Whilst applicant does not wish to be restricted by theory, serial  
25   nuclear addition and/or transfer is postulated to improve the developmental capacity of transplanted nuclei by allowing specific molecular components in the oocyte to assist in chromatin remodelling that is beneficial for nuclear reprogramming. Serial nuclear addition or a combination of nuclear addition and nuclear transfer is not restricted to a singular event but may be initiated on more  
30   than one occasion to sequentially improve conditions for chromatin remodelling,

nuclear reprogramming and embryonic development.

The donor nucleus may be genetically modified by modifying, deleting or adding one or more genes. The gene(s) to be modified, deleted or added may be of any suitable type.

- 5           The process of modifying, adding or deleting a gene may involve random or targeted integration of a transgene. Transgenes may be fully functional genes or expression constructs comprised of heterologous gene sequences including enhancers, repressors, promoters, exons, introns, cDNAs, coding sequences, antisense RNA, 5' or 3' non-coding regions and other RNA processing signals or  
10 elements including translational start and stop signals, internal ribosome entry sites (IRESs) and polyadenylation signals. Transgenes may be non-functional components of a gene or heterologous components of different genes which are dependent upon integration (random or targeted) into the host genome. Such transgenes include gene traps, promoter traps, enhancer traps and other DNA  
15 constructs harbouring point mutations or otherwise capable of modifying expression of an endogenous gene.

- The process of modifying a gene may involve the introduction of one or more mutations in both copies of the target gene. Suitable cells may take up the mutation(s) and then be used to generate a reprogrammed cell, cell line, embryo  
20 or non-human animal. One copy of the gene may be disrupted in the cell and the resultant heterozygous non-human animals bred with each other until an animal with both copies of the gene mutated is obtained. Alternatively, both copies of the gene may be modified *in vitro*.

- To target an endogenous gene rather than introduce transgenes into  
25 random locations in the genome, a DNA construct (transgene) including a nucleic acid sequence which is in part substantially isogenic to at least one or more portions of the target gene may be used.

The targeting DNA may comprise a sequence in which the desired sequence modifications are flanked by DNA substantially isogenic with a

corresponding target sequence in the genome to be modified. The substantially isogenic sequence is preferably at least about 97-98% identical with the corresponding target sequence (except for the desired sequence modifications), more preferably at least about 99.0-99.5% identical, most preferably about 99.6% to 99.9% identical. The targeting DNA and the target DNA preferably share stretches of DNA at least about 75 base pairs that are perfectly identical, more preferably at least about 150 base pairs that are perfectly identical, even more preferably at least about 500 base pairs that are perfectly identical. Accordingly, it is preferable to use targeting DNA derived from cells as closely related as possible to the cell being targeted; more preferably, the targeting DNA is derived from cells of the same genotype as the cells being targeted. Most preferably, the targeting DNA is derived from cells of the same individual (or animal) as the cells being targeted. Preferably, the targeting DNA sequence comprises at least about 100-200 base pairs of substantially isogenic DNA, more preferably at least about 300-1000 base pairs of substantially isogenic DNA, even more preferably at least 1000-15000 base pairs of substantially isogenic DNA.

As used herein, the term isogenic or substantially isogenic DNA refers to DNA having a sequence that is identical with or nearly identical with a reference DNA sequence. Indication that two sequences are isogenic is that they will hybridise with each other under the most stringent hybridisation conditions (see, for example, reference 25) and will not exhibit sequence polymorphism (i.e. they will not have different sites for cleavage by restriction endonucleases). The term "substantially isogenic" refers to DNA that is at least about 97-99% identical with the reference DNA sequence, and preferably at least about 99.5-99.9% identical with the reference DNA sequence and in certain cases 100% identical with the reference DNA sequence. Indications that two sequences are substantially isogenic is that they will still hybridise with each other under the most stringent conditions (25) and that they will only rarely exhibit restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) or sequence polymorphism (relative to the number that would be statistically expected for sequences of their particular length which share at least about 97-98% sequence identity). In general, a targeting DNA sequence and a host cell sequence are compared over a window of at least about 75

consecutive nucleotides. DNA sequences compared between individuals of a highly inbred strain are generally considered to be substantially isogenic even if detailed DNA sequence information is not available, if the sequence do not exhibit sequence polymorphisms by RFLP analysis.

5           Thus, the donor nucleus may be genetically modified by modifying an endogenous gene in the donor nucleus. The endogenous gene may be modified by introducing into said donor nucleus a DNA construct including a nucleic acid sequence which is substantially isogenic to at least one or more portions of the endogenous gene and includes one or more mutations or new gene sequences,  
10       such that there is homologous recombination between the DNA construct and the endogenous gene.

          The introduction of new genetic material and the subsequent selection of cells harbouring the desired targeted integration requires expansion and clonal selection of each founder transgenic cell. A limitation to applying this process in  
15       nuclear transplantation programs is the number of cell divisions which the transfected cell must undergo to provide sufficient material for molecular analysis of each transgenic colony and subsequent supply of nuclei for transfer. The great majority of cells suitable for *in vitro* genetic modification and subsequent nuclear transfer have limited *in vitro* propagation capacity. It is therefore desirable to utilise  
20       transfection and selection systems which generate and/or identify correctly targeted clones at high efficiency and with limited requirement for *in vitro* propagation.

          A particularly efficient approach to selecting for correctly targeted clones is to use IRES gene trap targeting vectors, as described in Australian Patent  
25       678234, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. The IRES gene trap targeting vector may be selected from IRES-neo, IRES-lacZ, (TAA<sub>3</sub>) IRES-lacZ, (TAA<sub>3</sub>) IRES-lacZ lox neo-tk lox, (TAG<sub>3</sub>) IRES-lacZ/mcIneo, SA lacZ-IRES neo, SA (TAA<sub>3</sub>) IRES-nuclear lacZ, SA (TAA<sub>3</sub>) IRES-nuclear lacZ lox Gprt lox, IRES-B-geo, (TAA<sub>3</sub>) IRES-B-geo, SA IRES-B-geo SA Optimised IRES-B-geo, IRES-nuclear B-geo, SA IRES-nuclear B-geo, SA (TAA<sub>3</sub>) IRES-nuclear B-geo,  
30       SA Optimised IRES-nuclear B-geo, IRES-zeo, SA IRES-zeo, IRES-hph, SA

IRES-hph, IRES-hph-tk, IRES-bsd, SA IRES-bsd, IRES-puro. IRES gene trap targeting vectors provide a significant enhancement in gene targeting efficiency by eliminating a large proportion of random integration events. IRES gene trap targeting vectors rely upon functional integration into an actively transcribed gene  
5 (such as the target gene) for expression of the selectable marker. Random integrations into non-transcribed regions of the genome are not selected.

In a preferred embodiment, it may be desirable to remove the selectable marker cassette from the targeted locus to eliminate expression of the eg. antibiotic resistance gene. One approach is to flank the IRES selectable marker  
10 cassette with suitable DNA sequences which act as recombination sites following the addition of a suitable site-specific recombinase. One example of a suitable recombinase site is the lox site which is specific for the Cre recombinase protein. Another example of a suitable recombinase is the FLP/FRT recombinase system (26).

15 High efficiency gene targeting and selection has a significant advantage in that suitably stringent selection systems, such as the IRES gene trap targeting vectors, can eliminate the need for biochemical analysis of clonal cell lines. In this instance, individual nuclei from a pool of uncharacterised transgenic cells should generate offspring of the desired phenotype at a ratio equivalent to the selected  
20 pool. The elimination of clonal selection may be particularly useful where only limited *in vitro* propagation is desirable or possible. One such instance includes the culture of embryonic nuclei for nuclear addition or nuclear transfer. Embryonic nuclei are more efficient than latter stage somatic cells for generating live born offspring by nuclear transfer. However, totipotent embryonic cells can not be  
25 cultured for extended periods for any other species than mice and potentially primates including man. Nuclear recycling through serial nuclear addition of embryonic nuclei provides an opportunity to maintain, expand and genetically manipulate multipotential cells from animals *in vitro*.

The DNA constructs may be engineered in bacteria and then introduced  
30 into the cells. The transgenes may be introduced into the cells by any suitable method. Preferred methods include direct injection, electroporation, liposomes or



calcium phosphate precipitation.

Whilst applicant does not wish to be restricted by theory, it is thought that regions of substantially isogenic DNA either side of the mutation preferentially align the transgene with the target site where it recombines and introduces the mutation. It is further thought that the main contributing factor for increasing the efficiency of introducing a specific mutation in a given gene is the degree of similarity between the target DNA and the introduced DNA. Thus, it is preferred that the DNA is isogenic (genetically identical) not allogenic (genetically dissimilar) at the genetic locus that is to be targeted.

As used in this specification the term "transgenic" should not be taken to be limited to referring to cells containing one or more genes from another species, although many transgenic cells will contain such a gene or genes or fragments thereof. Rather, the term refers more broadly to any cell whose DNA has been the subject of technical intervention by recombinant DNA technology. So, for example, a cell in which an endogenous gene has been deleted or modified (either by modifying the gene product or pattern of expression) is a transgenic cell for the purposes of this invention, as much as a cell to whose DNA an exogenous nucleic acid sequence has been added.

Reprogrammed cells according to the present invention may be used to generate cells, cell lines, tissues, organs, animal embryos and non-human animals. These products may be derived from reprogrammed embryonic cells (where the recipient cell is an oocyte or other embryonic cell such as an embryonic stem cell or primordial germ cell) or reprogrammed somatic cells (where a recipient cell is specific somatic cell type such as a liver or neural stem cell) and may be used to restore function to tissue that has been damaged by injury, disease or aging. Transferred cells may also be used to re-populate a depleted tissue or be genetically altered prior to transplantation to deliver gene therapy.

Cells and cell lines derived from reprogrammed cells or embryos may also be used in cell-based gene and drug screening and diagnostic assays to assess

for the presence or absence, function, efficacy, toxicity or any other biological property of a gene, gene product or other biologically active compound. Cells, cell lines, tissues and organs derived from reprogrammed cells may be used for medical, veterinary, agricultural applications and/or basic research. Tissues or  
5 organs derived from reprogrammed cells, or from animals or embryos that have developed from reprogrammed embryos, may also be used to treat patients with diseased or defective cells, tissues or organs. Cells, cell lines, embryo-derived cell lines, tissues and organs may be established using a patient's own cells as a donor source and would therefore avoid possible tissue rejection following  
10 transplantation.

Accordingly, the methods of the present invention may include the further step of generating cells, cell lines, tissues, organs, animal embryos or non-human animals from said reprogrammed cells or from cells reprogrammed by serial nuclear addition with or without nuclear transfer.

15 The method of the present invention may also include the further step of generating genetically modified or genetically abnormal cells, cell lines, tissues, organs, animal embryos or non-human animals from said genetically modified or abnormal reprogrammed cells or from genetically modified or abnormal cells reprogrammed by serial nuclear addition with or without nuclear transfer.

20 Cells, cell lines, tissues and organs may be produced from the reprogrammed cells by any suitable technique.

Cells, cell lines, tissues and organs may also be generated from an animal embryo that has developed from said reprogrammed cells. Cells, cell lines, tissues, organs, animal embryos or cell lines derived from such an embryo may  
25 also be generated from cells reprogrammed by serial nuclear addition with or without nuclear transfer.

In a particularly preferred embodiment of the present invention normal, abnormal, diseased or genetically modified cells may be reprogrammed and cells cell lines, tissues, organs, embryos, non-human fetuses or animals established

from these reprogrammed cells. In addition cells, cell lines, tissues and organs may be generated from an animal embryo, non-human foetus or animal that has developed from a reprogrammed cell. These cells and cell lines may be used for cell based gene and tissue therapies, cell based gene and drug screening, diagnostics, basic and applied research, and the production of non-human animals.

Reprogrammed cells or cells derived from reprogrammed cells may be transferred to an animal to restore function to, or improve the function of tissues or organs that have been damaged, for example by disease, injury or aging, or are dysfunctional due to genetic disease.

In a particularly preferred embodiment, cells or cell lines may be established from a patient's own cells. Cells or cell lines may also be established from an embryo or embryonic cell generated by reprogramming a patient's own cell. This approach is known as therapeutic cloning and offers the opportunity to treat a wide range of medical conditions including, but not limited to, spinal cord injury, diabetes and Alzheimer's disease. Cells or cell lines established by therapeutic cloning would be genetically identical to the patient and would pose little or no risk of immune rejection following transplantation.

Applicant has discovered that by incubating a partially or completely differentiated donor cell or nucleus in the environment of a suitable recipient cell the donor cell or nucleus may be reprogrammed. For example it may be de-differentiated to produce, for example, a pluripotent cell such as an embryonic stem cell. More particularly, Applicant has discovered that it is possible to generate ES cells by nuclear addition-mediated reprogramming of adult somatic cell nuclei and that ES cells derived by NA-mediated reprogramming of cumulus cells (CC-ES cells) retain the capacity to differentiate into multiple cell types both *in vitro* and *in vivo* (see Figures 1, 2, and 3).

Whilst Applicant does not wish to be restricted by theory, it is postulated that the recipient cell may provide factors which cause the donor cell to be reprogrammed, for example to at least partially de-differentiate to form pluripotent

cell lines.

Accordingly, in a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of restoring or improving function of a tissue or organ, said method including

- 5       providing
  - an animal, and
  - one or more reprogrammed cells according to the present invention or derivatives of said reprogrammed cells;
- transferring the cells or derivatives of the reprogrammed cells to the animal,
- 10   preferably at or near the site of said tissue or organ; and
- allowing the transferred cells or derivatives of the reprogrammed cells to repopulate said tissue or organ.

There is also provided use of a reprogrammed cell according to the present invention or derivative thereof for preparation of a medicament for restoring or

15   improving function of a tissue or organ by cell based therapies.

The cells or cell lines which have been genetically modified may be transferred to an animal to deliver gene therapy. Gene therapy would enable treatment of diseases such as but not limited to Sickle cell anaemia, haemophilia, metabolic disorders, liver disease, AIDS and other infectious diseases as well as

20   assisting in the repair or reconstitution of tissues or organs that have been damaged, for example by disease, injury or aging.

In a still further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of gene therapy, said method including

- providing
  - 25       an animal, and
  - one or more genetically modified, reprogrammed cells according to the present invention or derivatives of said cells;
- transferring the cells or derivatives of the reprogrammed cells to the animal;
- and
- 30   allowing said cells or derivatives of the reprogrammed cells to repopulate in

said animal to provide gene therapy.

There is also provided use of a genetically modified or abnormal reprogrammed cell according to the present invention or derivative thereof for preparation of a medicament for gene therapy.

5           The cells of the present invention may also be used for investigating disease processes and in gene and drug screening assays for characterised or uncharacterised multigenic diseases. In this case, the cells or cell lines are preferably derived on a patient or disease specific basis. The cells or cell lines may be established following reprogramming of a cell from an animal, or a cell  
10   culture or cell line established from an animal suffering a genetic disease. Abnormal cells include cells with known or unknown gene or chromosomal mutations, deletions, rearrangements and/or duplications. The reprogrammed cells and cells, tissues and organs derived from the reprogrammed cells, may be used to investigate a disease process, assess the therapeutic value, efficacy or  
15   toxicity of a particular drug, gene or treatment regime, and subsequent to genetic correction or modification, to deliver gene and tissue therapies.

Accordingly, in a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of investigating disease mechanisms, processes and potential or existing therapies by establishing cell-based screening assays to identify and evaluate  
20   candidate drug targets and therapeutic genes and to identify and evaluate drugs and drug candidates, said method including

providing

one or more reprogrammed cells according to the present invention or derivatives of said cells;

25           monitoring, adding, removing or otherwise investigating or modifying cellular processes including but not limited to gene expression and gene products expressed in the cells for the investigation; and/or

            adding, removing or otherwise investigating the biological effect of chemicals and potential drugs on cellular processes of the reprogrammed  
30   cell or derivatives thereof.

There is also provided use of a reprogrammed cell according to the present invention or derivative thereof for evaluating the usefulness of a medicament to treat multigenic diseases.

There is also provided use of a reprogrammed cell according to the present  
5 invention or derivative thereof for preparation cells, cell lines or their derivatives for medical and/or basic research.

Accordingly, in a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of establishing cells or cell lines for medical and/or basic research, said method including

10 providing  
one or more reprogrammed cells according to the present invention or derivatives of said cells;  
monitoring, adding, removing or otherwise investigating or modifying cellular processes including but not limited to gene expression and gene products  
15 expressed by the cells or derivatives thereof for the investigation of gene products and chemicals as potential therapeutic targets or agents.

There is also provided use of a reprogrammed cell according to the present invention or derivative thereof for medical and/or basic research.

The methods of the present invention may include the still further step of  
20 generating non-human animals from said reprogrammed animal cells or embryos or non-human transgenic animals from said transgenic animal cells or embryos.

Animal embryos may be generated from the reprogrammed cells by any suitable method. Embryonic development may be initially *in vitro* and subsequently in a surrogate. Thus, the aneuploid cell may be initially cultured *in*  
25 *vitro* to produce an embryo consisting of a diploid cell or a mixture of diploid and aneuploid cells as and then the embryo may be transferred to a surrogate for subsequent development into a non-human animal. *In vitro* culture of the cells may be in any suitable medium.

The animal embryo may be of any type, and includes bird, fish, reptile and mammalian (including ungulate and primate), for example murine, bovine, ovine or porcine embryos. The non-human animal may also be of any type, and includes bird, fish, reptile and mammalian (including ungulate and primate), for example  
5 murine, bovine, ovine or porcine animals. Preferably, the animal embryo or animal is a porcine embryo or animal, bovine embryo or animal, a ovine embryo or animal or a murine embryo or animal.

In a further aspect of the present invention there is provided a reprogrammed cell or cell line, genetically modified reprogrammed cell or cell line,  
10 or genetically abnormal reprogrammed cell or cell line produced by the methods of the present invention. The cell or cell line may be a human or non-human cell or cell line. Preferably the cell or cell line is a porcine, murine, ovine, bovine, caprine or human cell or cell line.

Examples of cells and cell lines which may be produced by the methods of  
15 the present invention include pluripotent cells such as embryonic and somatic stem cells and precursor cells or their derivatives including any end stage differentiated cell.

In a further aspect of the present invention there is provided an isolated tissue or organ produced or improved by the methods of the present invention.  
20 The tissue or organ may be of any animal species. Preferably the tissue or organ is a porcine, murine, ovine, bovine, caprine, primate or human tissue or organ.

In a further aspect of the present invention there is provided an animal embryo or transgenic animal embryo produced or improved by the methods of the present invention. The animal embryo or transgenic animal embryo may be  
25 human or non-human. Preferably the animal embryo or transgenic animal embryo is a porcine, murine, ovine, bovine, caprine, primate or human embryo.

In a still further aspect of the present invention there is provided a non-human animal or transgenic non-human animal produced or improved by the methods of the present invention. Preferably the non-human animal or non-

human transgenic animal is a porcine, murine, ovine, bovine or caprine animal. These non-human animals may provide organs for transplantation into humans or other forms of xenotransplantation.

In a still further aspect of the present invention there is provided an animal  
5 product from a non-human animal or a non-human transgenic animal produced by the methods of the present invention. The animal product may be a human or other animal protein or gene product, or a mixture of human and non-human animal products.

In a further aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of  
10 generating an animal embryo which method includes  
providing  
a donor nucleus, and  
a recipient cell;  
introducing the donor nucleus into the recipient cell to produce an aneuploid  
15 cell;  
optionally subjecting the aneuploid cell to an activation step;  
generating a reprogrammed diploid cell from said aneuploid cell by removal, destruction or loss of the recipient cell nucleus or nuclear DNA from said aneuploid cell; and  
20 generating an animal embryo from the said reprogrammed diploid cell.

Accordingly, the method of the present invention involves nuclear addition, ie. the addition of the nucleus of one cell to another cell.

Whilst Applicant does not wish to be restricted by theory, it is postulated that disproportionate distribution of the recipient cell's metaphase plate, nucleus,  
25 pronucleus, chromatin, chromosomes or DNA in the daughter cells of the aneuploid cell, or expulsion of the recipient cell's metaphase plate, nucleus, pronucleus, chromatin, chromosomes or DNA from the aneuploid cell or one or more of the aneuploid cell's daughter cells, results in the formation of a diploid animal embryo and placenta or a diploid animal embryo and an aneuploid  
30 placenta. An aneuploid placenta may provide advantages over normal diploid



placentas. For example, the aneuploid placenta may be bigger and more vigorous, which may in turn improve embryo viability. Alternatively the nucleus of the recipient cell may be expelled from the cell and participate no further in the development of the embryo.

- 5           The process of the present invention may include the further step of generating a non-human animal from the animal embryo.

In a still further aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of generating a transgenic animal embryo said method including providing

- 10           a donor nucleus which has been genetically modified to eliminate or reduce an undesirable activity or to provide for, or increase, a desirable activity, and  
            a recipient cell;  
            adding the donor nucleus to the recipient cell to produce a genetically  
15   modified aneuploid cell;  
            optionally subjecting the aneuploid cell to an activation step;  
            generating a reprogrammed diploid cell from said aneuploid cell by removal, destruction or loss of the recipient cell nucleus or nuclear DNA from said aneuploid cell; and  
20           generating a transgenic animal embryo from the said reprogrammed diploid cell.

- In a preferred aspect of the present invention, the method may include  
            subjecting the metaphase plate, nucleus, pronucleus, chromatin, chromosomes or DNA of the recipient cell to a pre-treatment step, as hereinbefore  
25   described.

- In one form of this aspect of the present invention, the method may include the further step of  
            substantially removing or substantially destroying the nucleus, pronucleus, metaphase plate, chromatin, chromosomes or DNA of the recipient cell, preferably  
30   prior to division of the aneuploid cell, as hereinbefore described.

In an alternate form, the method includes the further steps of providing a co-mingling inhibitor, and  
subjecting the aneuploid cell to a co-mingling inhibitor for a period sufficient to reduce or eliminate co-mingling of the recipient cell DNA and introduced DNA,  
5 as hereinbefore described.

Loss or removal of the recipient cell's metaphase plate, nucleus, chromatin, chromosomes or DNA may be assessed, as hereinbefore described.

In an alternate form of this aspect of the invention the recipient cell may be enucleated simultaneously with introduction of the donor cell or nucleus, as  
10 hereinbefore described.

The methods of the present invention may include the further step of subjecting the recipient cell, aneuploid cell or diploid cell to an activation step, as hereinbefore described.

The aneuploid cell is preferably maintained in a suitable environment for a  
15 time sufficient to allow the donor nucleus or cell to be reprogrammed, as hereinbefore described.

The donor nucleus and recipient cell which are used in the method of the present invention may be of any suitable origin, as hereinbefore described.

In preferred embodiments, the methods of the present invention may  
20 include producing reprogrammed second cells, and use of serial nuclear addition or a combination of nuclear addition and nuclear transfer, as hereinbefore described.

In a preferred embodiment, the methods of the present invention may include the further step of  
25 maintaining the aneuploid cell in a suitable medium for a period sufficient to allow the cell to recover a substantially normal shape, prior to activation.

Applicant has discovered that the number of viable embryos produced may be significantly increased by permitting the aneuploid cell to be maintained in culture for a period sufficient to allow the cell to recover a substantially normal, e.g. generally circular, shape. This culture step may be undertaken in a manner  
5 similar to that described herein.

Whilst applicant does not wish to be restricted by theory, it is postulated that the culture period permits the aneuploid cell to return to a more normal or stable state.

The aneuploid cell may be maintained in a suitable medium preferably for a  
10 period of approximately 3 to 8 hours, more preferably approximately 4.5 to 6 hours. It is desirable, however, that the culture period end before any, or any substantive division, ensues.

In a still further aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of preparing an aneuploid or reprogrammed diploid cell which method includes  
15 providing  
a donor nucleus;  
an exogenous nucleic acid molecule, and  
a recipient cell;  
introducing the donor nucleus and the exogenous nucleic acid molecule  
20 into the recipient cell to produce an aneuploid; and  
optionally generating a reprogrammed dipliod cell from said aneuploid cell by removal, destruction or loss of the recipient cell nucleus or nuclear DNA.

In a further aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of generating a transgenic animal embryo which method includes  
25 providing  
a donor nucleus,  
an exogenous nucleic acid molecule, and  
a recipient cell;  
introducing the donor nucleus and the exogenous nucleic acid molecule  
30 into the recipient cell to produce an aneuploid cell; and

optionally generating a reprogrammed diploid cell from said aneuploid cell by removal, destruction or loss of the recipient cell nucleus or nuclear DNA; and; generating a transgenic animal embryo from the diploid cell.

The step of introducing the donor nucleus and the exogenous nucleic acid molecule into the enucleated or non-enucleated recipient cell is preferably performed by either:

- 1) introducing the exogenous nucleic acid molecule into the donor nucleus and then introducing the donor nucleus into the recipient cell;
- 2) combining the exogenous nucleic acid molecule with the donor nucleus and introducing the combined nucleic acid and nucleus into the recipient cell; or
- 3) introducing the exogenous nucleic acid and the donor nucleus separately into the recipient cell.

The exogenous nucleic acid molecule may be introduced into the donor nucleus or recipient cell by any suitable means. For example, direct injection, electroporation or simple bathing of the nucleus or cell in a solution of the exogenous nucleic acid may be used.

In particularly preferred embodiments the exogenous nucleic acid is directly injected into the donor nucleus prior to nuclear addition; or alternatively the donor nucleus and exogenous nucleic acid are combined and then injected into the recipient cell.

The exogenous nucleic acid molecule may be of any suitable type. Preferably it is a naked DNA molecule. Additionally exogenous RNA, mRNA, hybrids of DNA and RNA and ribozymes maybe used. Whilst applicant does not wish to be restricted by theory, it is thought that when such molecules are introduced into or taken up by the donor nucleus, transgenesis may occur by random integration or by homologous recombination.

Alternatively, targeted transgenesis may be used, in which case the exogenous nucleic acid molecule includes 5' and/or 3' ends which direct the nucleic acid molecule to specific site(s) within the donor nucleus genome.

The method of the present invention may include the further step of  
5 generating a non-human transgenic animal from the transgenic animal embryo.

The donor nucleus may be of any suitable type and from any suitable species, as hereinbefore described.

The recipient cell may be of any suitable type and from any suitable species, as hereinbefore described.

10 The donor nucleus may be transferred to the recipient cell by any suitable method, as hereinbefore described.

Recipient cell volume may be increased by fusing together a zona pellucida free recipient cell with an enucleated oocyte or other cytoplasm before, after or at approximately the same time as donor nucleus fusion.

15 An animal embryo may be generated from the reconstituted cell by any suitable method, as hereinbefore described.

The animal embryo or non-human animal may be of any type, as hereinbefore described.

The donor nucleus and recipient cell which are used in the method of the  
20 present invention may be of any suitable origin, as hereinbefore described.

The method of the present invention may be used to generate transgenic non-human animals, as hereinbefore described.

In a further aspect of the present invention there is provided a reconstituted animal cell produced by the methods of the present invention. The cell may be  
25 human or non-human. Preferably the reconstituted animal cell is a porcine,

murine, ovine, bovine, caprine or human cell.

In a further aspect of the present invention there is provided a transgenic animal embryo produced by the methods of the present invention. The embryo may be human or non-human. Preferably the transgenic animal embryo is a  
5 porcine, murine, ovine, bovine, caprine or human embryo.

In a still further aspect of the present invention there is provided a non-human transgenic animal produced by the methods of the present invention. Preferably the transgenic animal is a porcine, murine, ovine, bovine or caprine animal.

10 The present invention will now be more fully described with reference to the accompanying Examples and Drawings. It should be understood, however, that the description following is illustrative only and should not be taken in any way as a restriction on the generality of the invention described above.

In the Figures:

15 **Figure 1:** Parental CC-ES cells displayed characteristic mouse ES cells colony morphology (a), SSEA-1 expression (b) and alkaline phosphatase activity (c). Distinctive X-gal stained nuclei (d) and female (40,XX) karyotype (e) confirmed contribution of the transgenic donor cell nucleus. Absence of Y chromosome-specific PCR product (lower band) in parental CC-ES cells and four clonally-  
20 derived CC-ES cell sub-lines (f). Controls: male ZIN40 ES cells, male foetal fibroblast (mFF) cells and no DNA (water). Scale bar, 100µm.

**Figure 2:** Neural (a-d) and myogenic (e-f) cells derived by *in vitro* differentiation of clonally derived CC-ES cells. Morphology was confirmed by indirect immunofluorescence to neurone-specific proteins: neurofilament 160 and 68 kDa  
25 (b and c) and MAP-2 (d), and muscle-specific proteins: actin (e) and desmin (f). Scale bar, 50µm.

**Figure 3:** CC-ES cell differentiation *in vivo*. Histological examination (H&E) of

parental CC-ES teratocarcinomas show the presence of ectoderm: neural epithelium (a) and stratified squamous epithelium (b); mesoderm: muscle and bone (c); and endoderm: ciliated epithelium (d). Extensive somatic cell contribution of parental CC-ES cells in chimaeric pups (left and right) was indicated by coat colour (e) and confirmed by distinctive X-gal stained nuclei in brain (f), heart (g) and gut (h) (PAS counterstained). Scale bar, 100µm.

## EXAMPLE 1

### Comparison of sequence of enucleation and direction injection in mouse nuclear transfer

#### 10 Conventional order: Enucleation followed by injection

In five replicate experiments:

- of manipulated oocytes survived enucleation (84/138)
- of these survived piezo-assisted direct injection with cumulus cell nuclei (16/78)
- 15 • resulting in only 12% manipulated oocytes placed into culture (16/138)

#### Reversed order: Injection then enucleation

In five replicate experiments:

- of manipulated oocytes survived piezo-assisted direct injection with cumulus cell nuclei (129/236)
- 20 • of these survived enucleation (86/118)
- resulting in 36% manipulated oocytes placed into culture (86/236)

All experiments were performed with oocytes and cumulus cells from standard F1 (C57BL/6xCBA) mice.

## EXAMPLE 2

### **Isolation of pluripotent embryonic stem cells from reprogrammed adult somatic cell nuclei: A murine model for human therapeutic cloning**

Pluripotent human stem cells isolated from early embryos represent a potentially unlimited source of many different cell types for cell-based gene and tissue therapies (1-3). However, the significant problem of donor-recipient tissue matching will need to be addressed if the full potential of donor embryo-derived cell lines is to be realised. One approach which avoids issues of transplant rejection would be to establish stem cell lines from the patient's own cells through therapeutic cloning (3,4). Recent studies have shown that it is possible to take the nucleus from an adult somatic cell, transfer the nucleus to an unfertilised oocyte devoid of maternal chromosomes, and achieve embryonic development directed by the transferred nucleus (5,6). Stem cells isolated from such a cloned embryo would be genetically identical to the patient and pose no risk of immune rejection.

Here we report the isolation of pluripotent murine stem cells from reprogrammed adult somatic cell nuclei. Nuclear addition embryos were generated by direct injection of mechanically isolated cumulus cell nuclei into mature oocytes. Embryonic stem (ES) cells isolated from nuclear addition blastocysts displayed characteristic morphology and marker expression and underwent extensive differentiation into all three embryonic germ layers (endoderm, mesoderm and ectoderm) in tumours and in chimaeric fetuses and pups. Nuclear addition ES cells also readily differentiated into neurones and muscle in culture. This study shows that pluripotent stem cells can be derived from terminally differentiated adult somatic cell nuclei and offers a model system for the investigation of nuclear donor potential in the development of autologous, human pluripotent stem cell therapies.

### **Results and discussion**

Blastocysts were generated by substituting cumulus cell nuclei for the genetic material of mature oocytes using a modification of the method previously



described (6). The cumulus cells were collected from transgenic mice (ZIN40) that ubiquitously express a nuclear localised *lacZ* reporter gene and demonstrate distinctive blue staining when treated with X-gal substrate (7). As recipient oocytes were collected from a non-transgenic strain (B6D2F1), the presence of the *lacZ* transgenic marker was used to demonstrate nuclear contribution of the cumulus cell nuclei following transfer (8). Thirty-nine percent (362/926) of manipulated oocytes survived injection and enucleation in 21 replicate experiments. Following strontium activation, 75% (270/362) of the reconstructed oocytes cleaved to the two-cell stage after 24 hours culture. Ten (3%) morphologically normal cumulus cell (CC)-derived blastocysts formed after 96 hours culture and were placed into culture for ES cell isolation. Eight blastocysts hatched and formed obvious inner cell mass outgrowths with 3 displaying putative ES cell morphology in initial passages. One cell line was established (parental CC-derived ES cell line) and continued to display characteristic mouse ES cell morphology when grown in the presence or absence of a fibroblast feeder layer in leukemia inhibitory factor (LIF) supplemented media (Figure 1a). Four sub-lines were established from 48 individual, mechanically isolated cells from the parental CC-derived ES (CC-ES) cell line.

All CC-ES cell lines examined showed characteristic ES cell morphology (Figure 1a) and expressed characteristic mouse ES cell markers including stage-specific embryonic antigen-1 (SSEA-1) (Figure 1b) and alkaline phosphatase activity (Figure 1c). Oct4 mRNA was highly expressed in undifferentiated ES cells and down regulated in differentiated ES cell cultures (not shown). NT-ES cells were demonstrated to have been derived from a reprogrammed somatic nucleus by distinctive blue X-gal stained nuclei (Figure 1d) and a normal female (40,XX) karyotype (Figure 1e). In addition to the cytological examination, the parental CC-ES cells and clonally derived sub-lines were shown to lack a Y chromosome-specific genomic PCR product (Figure 1f). No other female ES cells have been grown in our laboratory. The rate of ES cell derivation from CC blastocysts was similar to preliminary experiments where 5 ES cell lines were established from 55 *in vivo* derived blastocysts (3.5 days post coitum (dpc)).

Pluripotency of the parental CC-ES cell line and two of the clonally derived

sub-lines was investigated *in vitro* and *in vivo*. All CC-ES cell lines were found to readily differentiate into neurones and beating muscle *in vitro* at a similar frequency to control ES cells. Morphological observations were confirmed by indirect immuno-fluorescence in differentiated CC-ES cell cultures using neuronal- and muscle-specific antibodies (Figure 2). There appeared to be no restriction in differentiation with all CC-ES cell injection sites (12/12) in immunocompromised mice yielding *lacZ* positive teratocarcinomas with extensive differentiation into all three embryonic germ layers including neural epithelium and stratified squamous epithelium (ectoderm); muscle, cartilage and bone (mesoderm); and ciliated secretory epithelium (endoderm) (Figure 3a-d).

Restoration of pluripotency to the somatic nucleus was further demonstrated by somatic cell contribution in chimaeric fetuses and pups. Four out of six midgestation (10dpc) fetuses contained X-gal positive cells. One fetus appeared to be composed solely of NT-ES cell derivatives (not shown). Six out of 14 pups were identified as chimaeric by obvious coat and eye colour (Figure 3e). Multi-lineage CC-ES cell contribution was confirmed by *lacZ* genomic PCR (not shown) and microscopic analysis of X-gal stained frozen sections of all organs analysed including cerebellum, heart and gut (Figure 3f-h).

This report describes the first isolation of pluripotent stem cells from adult somatic cell nuclei. While ES-like cells have been isolated from bovine nuclear transfer embryos derived from foetal fibroblast nuclei (9), the mouse somatic cell-derived ES cell research described in this report offers a more accessible and diversified model system for *in vitro* and *in vivo* investigation of nuclear reprogramming and developmental competence. For example, ES cell lines may be established from different donor cell types and evaluated for possible restrictions in pluripotency using established *in vitro* and *in vivo* ES cell differentiation regimes. Such analyses may help explain the limited development of nuclear transfer blastocysts derived from neuronal and Sertoli cell nuclei (6). These studies could also be enhanced through the use of established transgenic mouse lines which harbour developmentally regulated or ubiquitously expressed reporter genes to monitor reprogramming at the molecular level or visualise cellular contribution in chimaeric embryos (8). Similarly, mutant mouse lines with

specific gene deletions or genetic modifications could be used as a nuclear donor source to investigate the role of specific genes in nuclear reprogramming or pluripotent stem cell differentiation.

Possibly the greatest potential for combining nuclear reprogramming with ES cell derivation lies in the development of autologous human pluripotent stem cells for cell based gene and tissue therapies. ES cell derived somatic cell transplantation could restore function to diseased or damaged tissues or be genetically altered prior to transplantation to deliver gene therapy. Transplantation studies in the mouse have shown that ES cell-derived cardiomyocytes (10), neural precursors (11), haematopoietic precursors (12) and insulin-secreting cells (13) can survive and function in recipient animals. Research described in this report provides proof of principal for human therapeutic cloning in a model system.

## **Supplementary material and methods**

### ***Generation of blastocysts by direct nuclei injection***

Oocytes and cumulus cells were collected from superovulated adult C6D2F1 (C57BL/6J x DBA/2) and ZIN40/129Sv female mice, respectively. Individual cumulus cell nuclei were mechanically isolated and injected into intact metaphase II oocytes (13 to 15 h after human chorionic gonadotrophin administration) using piezo-assisted micromanipulation (Piezo impact micromanipulation system, PMM-150FU; Prime Tech Ltd., Ibaraki, Japan). Cytoplasm containing the metaphase plate of each injected oocyte was then removed in the presence of cytochalasin B (Sigma, St. Louis, MO), stained with bisBENZIMIDE (Hoechst 33342; Sigma) dye and assessed under ultraviolet light for removal of only the oocyte's chromosomes. After 3 to 4 h reconstructed oocytes were chemically activated in 10 mM strontium chloride (Sigma) in the presence of cytochalasin B for 5 h, then cultured in G1/G2 medium (14) at 37°C and 5% CO<sub>2</sub> for 4 days with embryo development assessed daily.

### ***Derivation of ES cells***

ES cells were isolated essentially as described (15) with the exception that all embryos were cultured in individual wells of 96-well tissue culture plates (Falcon, Becton Dickinson Labware, Lincoln Park, NJ). The zona pellucida on some blastocysts were slit with a fine glass pipette to assist in hatching. ES cell isolation was performed in high glucose Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (Trace Bioscientific, Castle Hill, Australia) containing 20% foetal bovine serum (CSL, Melbourne, Australia) and  $2 \times 10^3$  U/ml LIF (gift from Lindsay Williams, Monash University, Clayton, Australia) with non-essential amino acids, glutamine, penicillin/streptomycin (Life Technologies, Gaithersburg, MD) and 2-mercaptoethanol (Sigma) at standard concentrations (16). Once established, ES cells were cultured without feeder cells in gelatin-coated dishes in ES cell culture medium containing 10% foetal bovine serum. Clonal sub-lines were established by mechanically transferring individual cells from passage 6, feeder-free, parental CC-ES cell cultures into separate gelatin-coated wells of a 96-well plate.

### ***Characterisation of ES cells***

Alkaline phosphatase activity was demonstrated as previously described (17).

SSEA-1 expression was detected by SSEA-1 specific monoclonal antibody (MC-480; Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank, Iowa City, IA) and visualised by fluorescein isothiocyanate conjugated goat anti-mouse immunoglobulin (Dako, Carpinteria, CA).

Oct4 RT-PCR was performed as previously described (18) using modified primers: 5'-GTTCTCTTTGGAAAGGTGTTTC-3' (forward) and 5'-ACTCGAACCACATCCTTCTC-3' (reverse) where the anticipated Oct4 RT/PCR product size was 311bp. As a control for mRNA quality we assayed polyA transcripts using the same RT-PCR conditions and the following primers: 5'-GTTGCAGGGTAACCGATGAA-3' (forward) and 5'-TGTTGTGGGTATGCTGGTGT-3' (reverse) and the anticipated product size

was 361bp.

Standard G-banding techniques were used for karyotyping (50 metaphase spreads counted). The lack of a Y chromosome was further confirmed by the absence of *Smcy* (19) as determined by genomic PCR using primers:

5 5'-TGAAGCTTTGGCTTTGAG-3' (forward) and 5'-CCGCTGCCAAATTCTTTGG-3' (reverse) under the following conditions: 35 cycles of 95°C for 30 seconds, 58°C for 30 seconds, 72°C for 30 seconds (Dr David Threadgill, Department of Cell Biology, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN; personal communications). PCR products were generated from *Smcy* (approximately 290bp) and its X-chromosomal homologue *Smcx* (approximately 330bp).

10

### ***Teratocarcinoma formation***

Teratocarcinomas were established by injection single cell suspension of CC-ES (parental and clonal) cells under the testis capsule of 4- to 6-week-old severe combined immunodeficient (SCID) mice. Testes were removed 18 to 20 days after surgery and portions either snap-frozen for X-gal staining or fixed in Bouin's fixative, embedded in paraffin and examined histologically after haematoxylin and eosin staining.

15

### ***Generation of chimaeric fetuses and pups***

Chimaeras were generated by morula aggregation (20) or blastocyst injection (21). Parental CC-ES cells were either aggregated with eight-cell CD1 embryos or injected into C57BL/6J blastocysts (3.5dpc) before transfer to pseudopregnant recipient B6CBF1 (C57BL/6JxCBA) mice (2.5dpc).

20

### ***In vitro differentiation and characterisation***

CC-ES cell aggregates were either treated with retinoic acid for neuronal differentiation (22) or allowed to spontaneously differentiate into beating muscle (23). Characteristic antigens in differentiated ES cells were detected by indirect immunofluorescence using the specific monoclonal primary mouse antibodies and

25

FITC conjugated anti-mouse immunoglobulin (Dako) at the following dilutions according to manufacturer's instructions: anti-actin (1:20; M0635, Dako), anti-desmin (1:30; M0760, Dako), anti-MAP 2a,b (1:100; AP20, Neomarkers, Union City, CA) and anti-neurofilament proteins 68kDa and 160kDa (neat; Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, Amersham, UK and Boehringer Mannheim Biochemica, Indianapolis, IN, respectively).

### ***X-gal staining/ lacZ PCR***

Embryos and frozen tissue sections were fixed and stained with 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl  $\beta$ -D-galactopyranoside (X-gal; Promega, Madison, WI) substrate as previously described (24). The presence of *lacZ* was detected by genomic PCR using the following primers: 5'-ACTATCCCGACCGCCTTACT-3' (forward) and 5'-TAGCGGCTGATGTTGAACTG-3' (reverse) under the following conditions: 30 cycles of 95°C for 30 seconds, 52°C for 30 seconds, 72°C for 2 minutes. The anticipated product size was 172bp.

15

## **EXAMPLE 3**

### **Efficiency of nuclear transfer and nuclear addition in pigs**

**TABLE 1**

Group	Oocytes	Fused (%)	Cleaved (%)	Blastocysts (%)
NT	97	44(45.4)	21(47.7)	6(13.6)
NA	112	54(48.2)	44(81.5)	17(31.5)
Following NT and NA a period of 6 hours was allowed prior to undertaking Activation/Fusion.				
NT: Nuclear transfer NA: Nuclear addition.				

## EXAMPLE 4

### **Efficiency of Nuclear Addition in Pigs and Effect of Activation, Fusion and Post Treatment thereon**

5 The nuclear addition of Example 3 was repeated except that a series of modifications were introduced to gauge their impact on efficiency. These included utilising intact MI oocytes in place of MII oocytes, varying the order and arrangement of the activation and fusion steps, utilising chemical inhibitors to prevent co-mingling, and removing or destroying genomic DNA. The results are provided in Table 2.

**TABLE 2****Nuclear addition**

Oocyte Source	Nuclear manipulation	Post Treatment <sup>1</sup>	Ploidy Correction Intervention	Reconstructed Embryos	Development to Blastocyst (%)
Intact MII oocytes (non enucleated)	Simultaneous Fusion <sup>2</sup> and Activation <sup>3</sup>	Development is allowed to continue without further intervention		360	116 (32)
			<sup>5</sup> Remove or Destroy genomic DNA	120	28 (23)
		1. Cytokinesis Inhibitors (eg Cytochalasin B)		60	15 (25)
		1. Cytokinesis Inhibitors (eg Cytochalasin B)	<sup>5</sup> Remove or Destroy genomic DNA	65	14 (21)
		2. Karyokinesis Inhibitors (eg Colcemid, Nocodazole or Taxol)		57	14 (25)
		2. Karyokinesis Inhibitors (eg Colcemid, Nocodazole or Taxol)	<sup>5</sup> Remove or Destroy genomic DNA	43	6 (14)
		Combination 1 + 2		48	7 (15)
		Combination 1 + 2	<sup>5</sup> Remove or Destroy genomic DNA	36	4 (12)



Oocyte Source	Nuclear manipulation		Post Treatment <sup>1</sup>	Ploidy Correction Intervention	Reconstructed Embryos	Development to Blastocyst (%)
Intact MII oocytes	Activation <sup>3</sup>	Fusion <sup>2</sup>	Development is allowed to continue without further intervention		126	30 (24)
				<sup>5</sup> Remove or Destroy genomic DNA	48	8 (17)
Intact MII oocytes	Cell Insertion /Injection (w/out fusion <sup>4</sup> )	Activation <sup>3</sup>	Development is allowed to continue without further intervention		53	16 (30)
				<sup>5</sup> Remove or Destroy genomic DNA	48	12 (25)
			1. Cytokinesis Inhibitors (eg Cytochalasin B)		36	3 (8)
			1. Cytokinesis Inhibitors (eg Cytochalasin B)	<sup>5</sup> Remove or Destroy genomic DNA	29	3 (10)
			2. Karyokinesis Inhibitors (eg Colcemid, Nocodazole or Taxol)		31	5 (16)
			2. Karyokinesis Inhibitors (eg Colcemid, Nocodazole or Taxol)	<sup>5</sup> Remove or Destroy genomic DNA	26	4 (15)
			Combination 1 + 2		24	3 (12)
			Combination 1 + 2	<sup>5</sup> Remove or Destroy genomic DNA	18	2 (11)

Oocyte Source	Nuclear manipulation	Post Treatment <sup>1</sup>	Ploidy Correction Intervention	Reconstructed Embryos	Development to Blastocyst (%)
Intact MI oocytes (non enucleated)	Simultaneous Fusion <sup>2</sup> and Activation <sup>3</sup>	Development is allowed to continue without further intervention		65	3 (5)
			<sup>5</sup> Remove or Destroy genomic DNA	46	2 (4)
		1. Cytokinesis Inhibitors (eg Cytochalasin B)		38	1 (3)
		1. Cytokinesis Inhibitors (eg Cytochalasin B)	<sup>5</sup> Remove or Destroy genomic DNA	27	2 (7)
		2. Karyokinesis Inhibitors (eg Colcemid, Nocodazole or Taxol)		26	3 (11)
		2. Karyokinesis Inhibitors (eg Colcemid, Nocodazole or Taxol)	<sup>5</sup> Remove or Destroy genomic DNA	18	1 (6)
		Combination 1 + 2		23	1 (4)
		Combination 1 + 2	<sup>5</sup> Remove or Destroy genomic DNA	17	1 (6)
Intact MI oocytes	Activation <sup>3</sup>	Development is allowed to continue without further intervention		42	3 (7)
	Fusion <sup>2</sup>		<sup>5</sup> Remove or Destroy genomic DNA	28	2 (7)

Oocyte Source	Nuclear manipulation	Post Treatment <sup>1</sup>	Ploidy Correction Intervention	Reconstructed Embryos	Development to Blastocyst (%)
Intact MI oocytes	Cell Insertion /Injection (w/out fusion <sup>4</sup> )	Activation <sup>3</sup> Development is allowed to continue without further intervention		43	3 (7)
			<sup>5</sup> Remove or Destroy genomic DNA	36	2 (5)
			1. Cytokinesis Inhibitors (eg Cytochalasin B)	27	1 (4)
			1. Cytokinesis Inhibitors (eg Cytochalasin B)	25	1 (4)
			2. Karyokinesis Inhibitors (eg Colcemid, Nocodazole or Taxol)	19	1 (5)
			2. Karyokinesis Inhibitors (eg Colcemid, Nocodazole or Taxol)	15	1 (7)
			Combination 1 + 2	16	1 (6)
			Combination 1 + 2	12	1 (8)

Note:

1. Post treatment usually occurs after activation, preferable for 1 hour (or to 12 hours) but would stop prior to normal embryo cleavage and is provided to prevent intermingling of genomic and introduced DNA
2. Fusion is preferred using described Electrical, Viral or PEG methods
3. Activation is preferred using described chemical (Ethanol, Strontium Calcium Ionophore etc) or electrical methods
4. Cell Injection/Insertion is insertion of new DNA (without fusion) using microinjection methods (piezo, microinjection) without destruction of the MI or MII plates
5. Removal or destruction of the metaphase DNA is preferred using enucleation (micromanipulation/extraction, piezo etc) or by chemical or laser microsurgery methods. Removal is preferable before the first cleavage or to stop association of metaphase DNA to inserted/fused karyoplast DNA.

**EXAMPLE 5**

**The effect of delaying activation in pig oocytes**

**TABLE 3**

Time delayed	No. of Oocytes	No. of Oocytes Fused (%)
1 ñ 2 hrs	131	57 (43.5)
4 ñ 6 hrs	104	63 (60.6)

5

**EXAMPLE 6**

**Efficiency of Transgenesis in porcine embryos produced by Nuclear Transfer (NT) and Nuclear Addition (NA)**

**TABLE 4**

Group	Oocytes	Fused (%)	Cleaved (%)	Blastocysts (%)	Transgenic (%)
NT	196	87(44.4)	42(48.2)	12(13.7)	1 (8.3)
NA	210	101(48.1)	50(79.2)	26(25.7)	3 (11.5)

The DNA construct used was pGalloway which is based on the porcine  $\alpha$ 1,3-galactosyltransferase gene

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251(4999), 1351-5).

Finally, it is to be understood that various alterations, modifications and/or additions may be made without departing from the spirit of the present invention as outlined herein.

## CLAIMS

1. A method of preparing a reprogrammed diploid cell which method includes

providing

5 a donor cell or donor nucleus, and  
a recipient cell;

introducing the donor cell or donor nucleus into the recipient cell to produce an aneuploid cell;

10 maintaining the aneuploid cell in a suitable environment for a period  
sufficient to allow the donor nucleus to be reprogrammed;

optionally subjecting the aneuploid cell to an activation step; and

generating a reprogrammed diploid cell from said reprogrammed aneuploid cell by removal, destruction or loss of the recipient cell nucleus or nuclear DNA from said reprogrammed aneuploid cell.

15 2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the recipient cell is an oocyte, zygote, or embryonic blastomere.

3. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the oocyte is a metaphase II oocyte.

20 4. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the recipient cell is an embryonic stem cell, embryonic germ cell, primordial germ cell, embryonal carcinoma cell or other pluripotent stem cell.

5. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the donor nucleus or cell is a somatic cell or nucleus derived therefrom.

25 6. A method according to Claim 5, wherein the donor nucleus or cell is a cumulus cell or nucleus derived therefrom.

7. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the donor nucleus or cell is an embryonic cell or nucleus derived therefrom.

8. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the donor nucleus or cell is a germ cell or nucleus derived therefrom.

9. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the donor nucleus or cell is an embryonic stem cell, embryonic germ cell, primordial germ or a somatic stem  
5 cell or nucleus derived therefrom.

10. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the donor nucleus or cell is transferred to the recipient cell by piezo-assisted micromanipulation.

11. A method according to Claim 1, wherein nucleus or nuclear DNA of the recipient cell is substantially removed or destroyed prior to division of the  
10 aneuploid cell.

12. A method according to claim 1 wherein the donor cell is reprogrammed to an embryonic cell.

13 A method according to claim 12 wherein the reprogrammed cell is capable of forming an animal embryo containing pluripotent embryonic cells.

15 14. A method according to Claim 13, wherein a pluripotent stem cell is derived from the pluripotent embryo cells.

15. A method according to Claim 14, wherein an embryonic stem cell line is produced.

16. A method of preparing a reprogrammed genetically modified diploid  
20 cell, said method including  
providing

a donor cell or donor nucleus which donor cell or nucleus has been genetically modified to eliminate or reduce an undesirable activity or to provide for or increase a desirable activity, and

25 a recipient cell;

introducing the donor cell or nucleus into the recipient cell to produce an

aneuploid cell;

maintaining the aneuploid cell in a suitable environment for a period sufficient to allow the donor nucleus to be reprogrammed;

optionally subjecting the aneuploid cell to an activation step; and

5 generating a reprogrammed genetically modified diploid cell from said reprogrammed aneuploid cell by removal, destruction or loss of the recipient cell nucleus or nuclear DNA from said reprogrammed aneuploid cell.

17. A method of preparing a reprogrammed genetically abnormal cell, said method including

10 providing

a donor cell or donor nucleus which donor cell or nucleus is derived from a genetically abnormal cell, such as a cell from an animal or person with a genetic disease, and

a recipient cell;

15 introducing the donor cell or nucleus into the recipient cell to produce an aneuploid cell;

maintaining the aneuploid cell in a suitable environment for a period sufficient to allow the donor nucleus to be reprogrammed;

optionally subjecting the aneuploid cell to an activation step; and

20 generating a reprogrammed genetically abnormal cell with an equivalent genetic composition to the said abnormal donor cell nucleus from said reprogrammed aneuploid cell by removal, destruction or loss of the recipient cell nucleus or nuclear DNA from said reprogrammed aneuploid cell.

18. A method of restoring or improving function of a tissue or organ, said  
25 method including

providing

an animal, and

one or more reprogrammed cells according to Claim 1 or derivatives of said cells;

30 transferring the cells or derivatives thereof to the animal, preferably at or near the site of said tissue or organ; and

allowing the transferred cells or derivatives thereof to repopulate said tissue or organ.

19. A method of gene therapy, said method including providing

5                   an animal, and  
                  one or more genetically modified, reprogrammed cells according to Claim 16 or derivatives of said cells;  
transferring the cells or derivatives thereof to the animal; and  
allowing said cells or derivatives thereof to repopulate in said animal to  
10 provide gene therapy.

20. A method according to Claim 1, further including the step of generating a cell line, tissue, organ or animal embryo from said reprogrammed cell.

21. A method according to Claim 20, further including the step of  
15 generating a non-human animal from said animal embryo.

22. A method according to Claim 16, including the further step of generating a genetically modified cell, cell line, tissue or organ or a transgenic animal embryo from said reprogrammed cell.

23. A method according to Claim 22, further including the step of  
20 generating a non-human transgenic animal from said animal embryo.

24. A cell produced by the method of Claim 1.

25. A genetically modified cell produced by the method of Claim 16.

26. A cell, cell line, tissue, organ or animal embryo produced by the method of Claim 20.

25           27. A genetically modified cell, cell line, tissue or organ or transgenic animal embryo produced by the method of Claim 22.

28. A non-human animal produced by the method of Claim 21.

29. A non-human transgenic animal produced by the method of Claim 23.

30. A method of generating an animal embryo which method includes providing

a donor nucleus, and

a recipient cell; and

introducing the donor nucleus into to the recipient cell to produce an aneuploid cell;

optionally subjecting the aneuploid cell to an activation step;

generating a reprogrammed diploid cell from said aneuploid cell by removal, destruction or loss of the recipient cell nucleus or nuclear DNA from said aneuploid cell; and

generating an animal embryo from said reprogrammed diploid cell.

31. A method of generating a transgenic animal embryo said method including

providing

a donor nucleus which has been genetically modified to eliminate or reduce an undesirable activity or to provide for, or increase, a desirable activity, and

a recipient cell;

adding the donor nucleus to the recipient cell to produce a genetically modified aneuploid cell;

optionally subjecting the aneuploid cell to an activation step;

generating a reprogrammed diploid cell from said aneuploid cell by removal, destruction or loss of the recipient cell nucleus or nuclear DNA from said aneuploid cell; and

generating a transgenic animal embryo from said reprogrammed diploid

cell.

32. A method of preparing an aneuploid or reprogrammed diploid cell which method includes

providing

a donor nucleus,

5 an exogenous nucleic acid molecule, and

a recipient cell;

introducing the donor nucleus and the exogenous nucleic acid molecule into the recipient cell to produce an aneuploid cell; and

optionally generating a reprogrammed diploid cell from said aneuploid cell

10 by removal, destruction or loss of the recipient cell nucleus or nuclear DNA.

33. A method of generating a transgenic animal embryo which method includes

providing

a donor nucleus,

15 an exogenous nucleic acid molecule, and

a recipient cell;

introducing the donor nucleus and the exogenous nucleic acid molecule into the recipient cell to produce an aneuploid cell;

optionally generating a reprogrammed diploid cell from said aneuploid cell

20 by removal, destruction or loss of the recipient cell nucleus or nuclear DNA; and

generating a transgenic animal embryo from the aneuploid or reprogrammed diploid cell.

34. A method of preparing a reprogrammed diploid embryonic cell or embryo which method includes

25 providing

a donor cell or donor cell nucleus, and

a recipient oocyte or embryonic cell;

introducing the donor cell or donor cell nucleus into the recipient oocyte or embryonic cell to produce an aneuploid cell;

30 maintaining the aneuploid cell in a suitable environment for a period sufficient to allow the donor cell nucleus to be reprogrammed;

optionally subjecting the aneuploid cell to an activation step; and

generating a reprogrammed diploid embryonic cell or embryo from said reprogrammed aneuploid cell by removal, destruction or loss of the recipient cell nucleus or nuclear DNA from said reprogrammed aneuploid cell or one or more of its daughter cells.



FIGURE 1

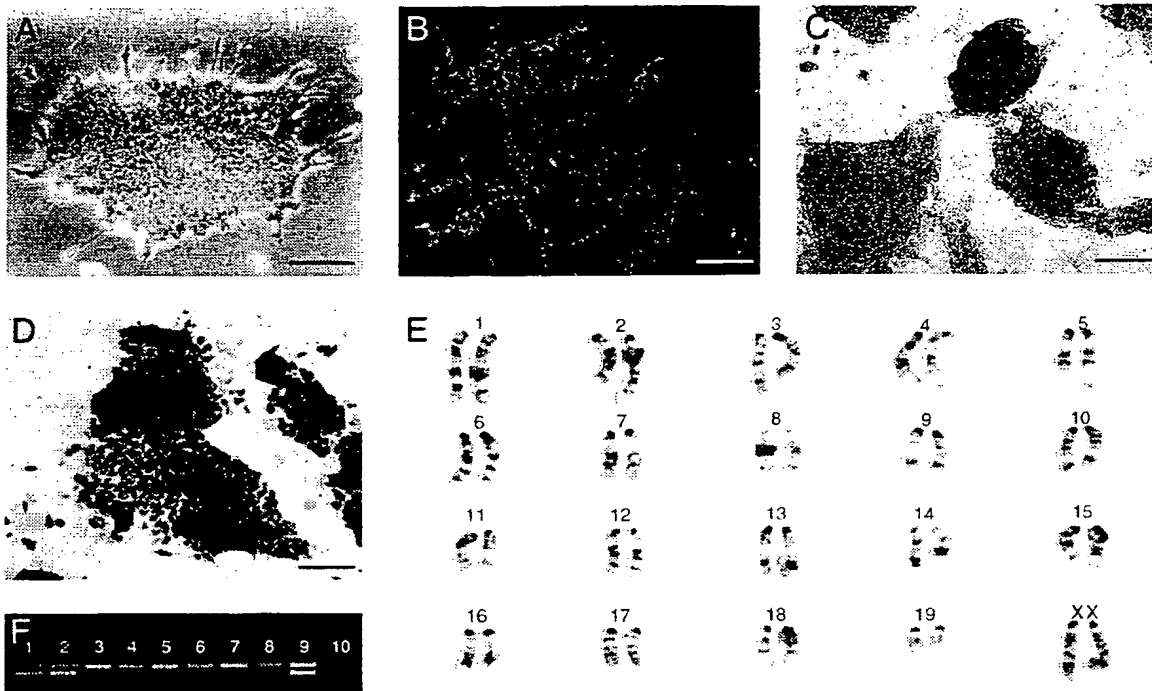


FIGURE 2

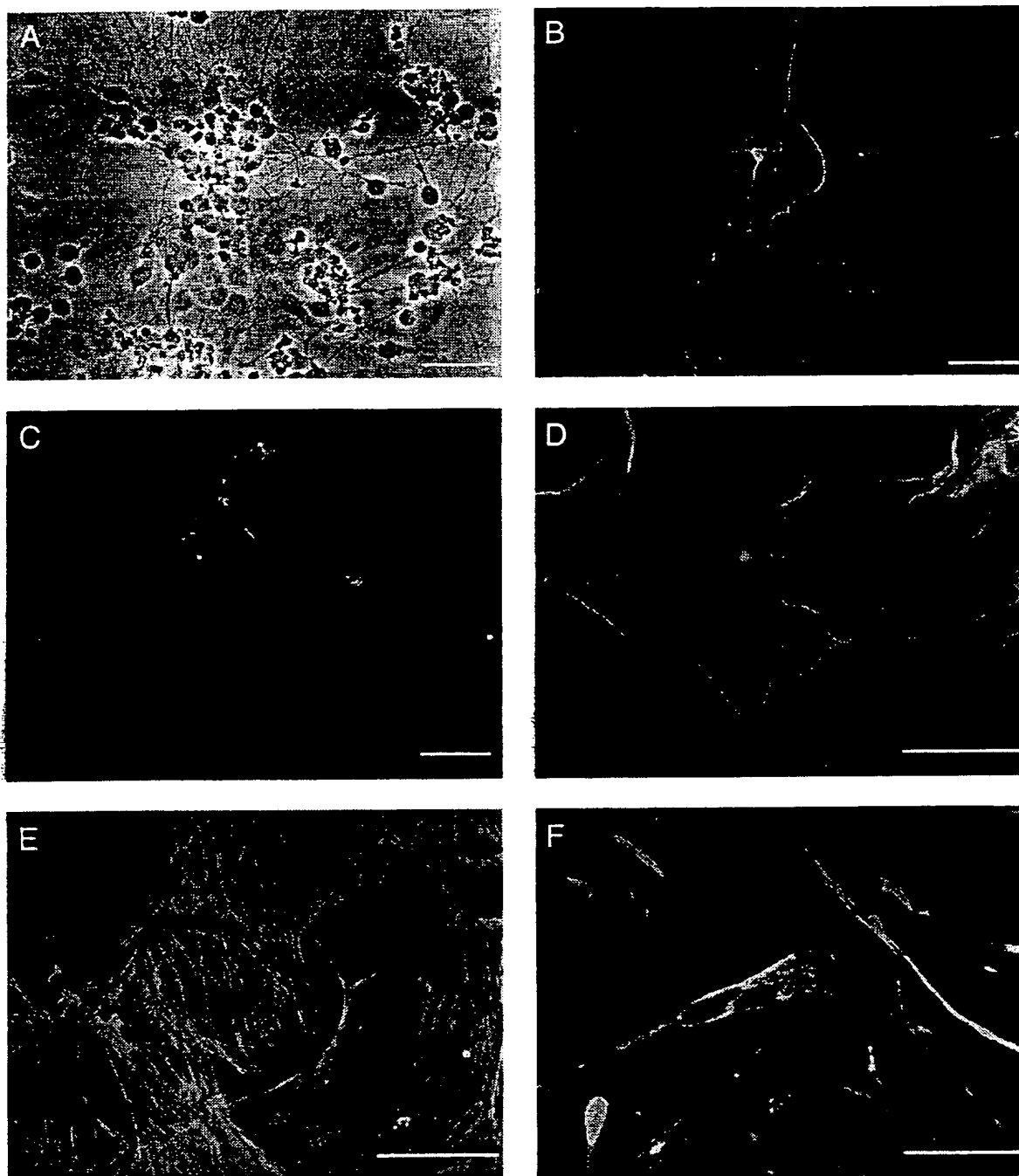
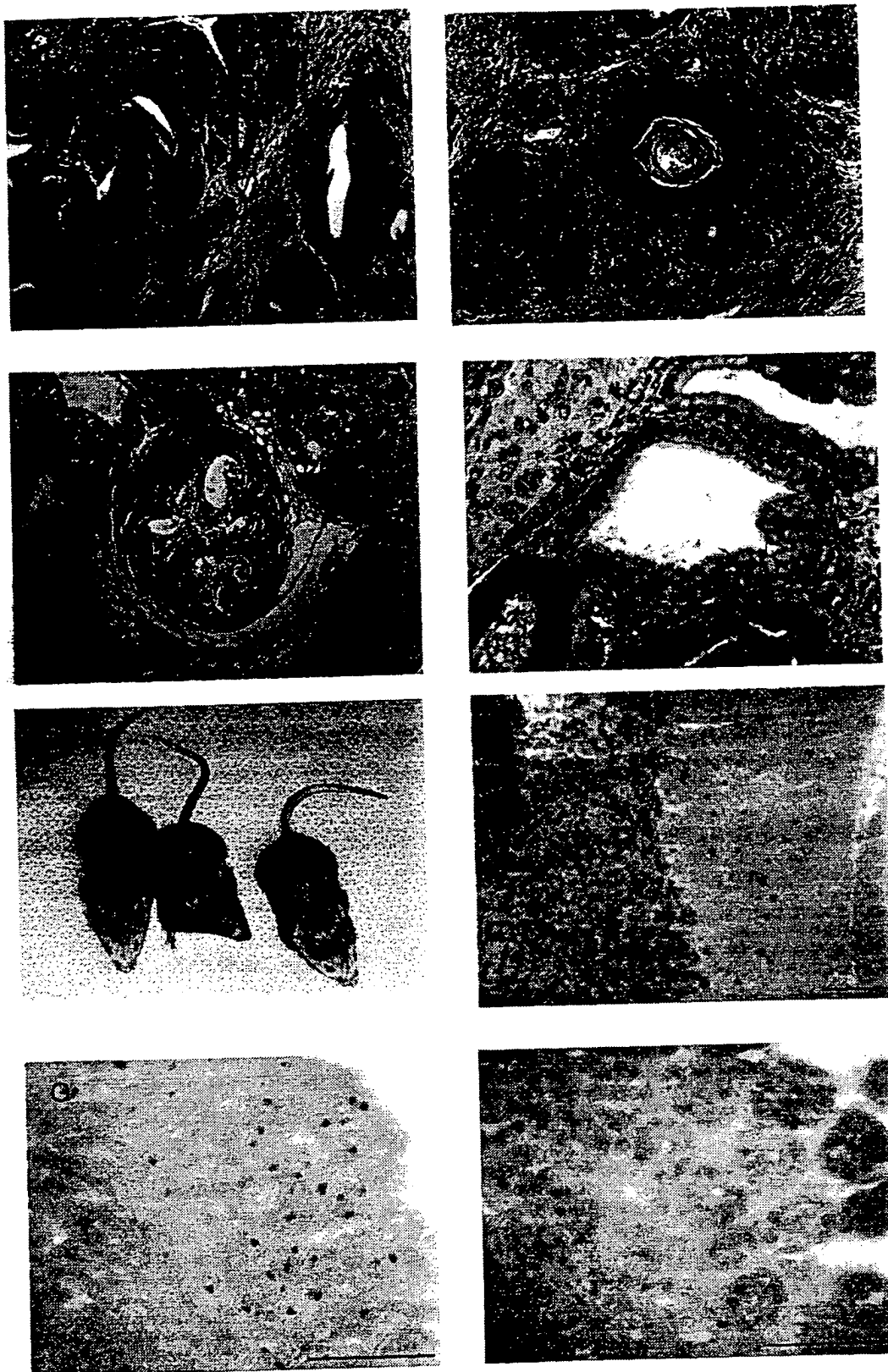


FIGURE 3



## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU00/00408

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

Int. Cl. : A01K 67/00 C12N 5/16 15/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

**SEE ELECTRONIC DATA BASES**

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

MEDLINE: "cloning, organism"/CT AND "cell nucleus: tr, transplantation"/CT

WPIDS: (nuclear OR nucleus) AND (C12N 5/06 OR C12N 5/22 OR C12N 5/16 OR C12N 15/06 OR C12N 15/07 C12N 08)

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	Katsutoshi Niwa et al <i>Development Growth and Differentiation</i> (1999) pp163-172 "Transplantation of blastula nuclei to non-enucleatd eggs in the medka, <i>Oryzias latipes</i> " Whole document	1-32



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C



See patent family annex

\* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T"

later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&amp;"

document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

27 June 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

07 JUL 2000

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU00/00408

**Box I** Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos : 1 - 32 partially  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:  
The claims included within their scope processes for the generation of humans. The claim are directed to the production of reprogrammed animal cells, which includes reprogrammed human cells. The claims have not been searched in so far as they include reprogramming of human cells.
2. ☐ Claims Nos :  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos :  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

**Box II** Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

**Remark on Protest**

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

embodiment: embryonic cells such as embryonic stem cells or other pluripotent stem cell lines, embryonic germ cells or primordial germ cells may be used.

It is particularly preferred that the donor cells be at a particular stage in the cell cycle, for example G<sub>0</sub>, G<sub>1</sub> or S-phase. Applicant has found that it is possible to isolate populations of cells which are enriched for cells at each stage in the cell cycle by sorting the cells on the basis of size, for example using FACS. This avoids the use of stains, which may be toxic to the cells. Staining can be used on a sample of each size-sorted population to identify what stage in the cell cycle that population is at.

10 The donor nucleus may be from a normal, abnormal or from genetically modified cell. Donor nuclei may be isolated directly from an animal cell, from an animal cell culture or from an established cell line. Abnormal cells include cells with known or unknown genetic mutations including gene and other chromosomal mutations, deletions, rearrangements, substitutions and/or duplications.

15 The recipient cell may be of any suitable type and from any suitable species. The recipient cell may be an *in vivo* or *in vitro* produced oocyte. Oocytes may be, for example, germinal vesicle (GV) stage or metaphase I (MI) immature oocytes, or oocytes arrested in the second metaphase of meiotic maturation (MII oocytes). Other sources of recipient cells include zygotes, fertilised oocytes, 20 embryonic blastomeres (e.g. 2-cell blastomeres) and cell lines produced from gonads, germ cell tumours or any other cell type suitable for allowing the successful addition of a nucleus. In addition, the recipient cell may be a pluripotent cell such as an embryonic stem (ES) cell, embryonic germ cell or primordial germ cell [which includes cells isolated from cell lines, primary cultures 25 or isolated cells from the inner cell mass (ICM), embryonic disc (ED), embryonic ectoderm or primordial germ cells (PGCs)], a cell derived from a tumor including an embryonal tumor may be used (eg. embryonal carcinoma (EC) or yolk sac tumor cells). Somatic cell recipients such as neural or haematopoietic stem cells may be used as a source of recipient cell. Oocytes, for example arrested in the second 30 metaphase of meiotic maturation (MII oocytes) are preferred.

**CLAIMS**

1. A method of preparing a reprogrammed diploid cell which method includes

providing

- 5                   a donor cell or donor nucleus, and  
                  a recipient cell;

introducing the donor cell or donor nucleus into the recipient cell to produce an aneuploid cell;

10               maintaining the aneuploid cell in a suitable environment for a period  
sufficient to allow the donor nucleus to be reprogrammed;

optionally subjecting the aneuploid cell to an activation step; and

generating a reprogrammed diploid cell from said reprogrammed aneuploid cell by removal, destruction or loss of the recipient cell nucleus or nuclear DNA from said reprogrammed aneuploid cell.

15           2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the recipient cell is an oocyte, zygote, or embryonic blastomere.

3. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the oocyte is a metaphase II oocyte.

20           4. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the recipient cell is an embryonic stem cell, embryonic germ cell, primordial germ cell, embryonal carcinoma cell or other pluripotent stem cell.

5. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the donor nucleus or cell is a somatic cell or nucleus derived therefrom.

25           6. A method according to Claim 5, wherein the donor nucleus or cell is a cumulus cell or nucleus derived therefrom.

7. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the donor nucleus or cell is an embryonic cell or nucleus derived therefrom.

8. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the donor nucleus or cell is a germ cell or nucleus derived therefrom.

9. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the donor nucleus or cell is an embryonic stem cell, embryonic germ cell, primordial germ or a somatic stem  
5 cell or nucleus derived therefrom.

10. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the donor nucleus or cell is transferred to the recipient cell by piezo-assisted micromanipulation.

11. A method according to Claim 1, wherein nucleus or nuclear DNA of the recipient cell is substantially removed or destroyed prior to division of the  
10 aneuploid cell.

12. A method according to claim 1 wherein the donor cell is reprogrammed to an embryonic cell.

13 A method according to claim 12 wherein the reprogrammed cell is capable of forming an animal embryo containing pluripotent embryonic cells.

15 14. A method according to Claim 13, wherein a pluripotent stem cell is derived from the pluripotent embryo cells.

15. A method according to Claim 14, wherein an embryonic stem cell line is produced.

20 16. A method of preparing a reprogrammed genetically modified diploid cell, said method including providing

a donor cell or donor nucleus which donor cell or nucleus has been genetically modified to eliminate or reduce an undesirable activity or to provide for or increase a desirable activity, and

25 a recipient cell;

introducing the donor cell or nucleus into the recipient cell to produce an



aneuploid cell;

maintaining the aneuploid cell in a suitable environment for a period sufficient to allow the donor nucleus to be reprogrammed;

optionally subjecting the aneuploid cell to an activation step; and

- 5        generating a reprogrammed genetically modified diploid cell from said reprogrammed aneuploid cell by removal, destruction or loss of the recipient cell nucleus or nuclear DNA from said reprogrammed aneuploid cell.

17.    A method of preparing a reprogrammed genetically abnormal cell, said method including

- 10        providing

         a donor cell or donor nucleus which donor cell or nucleus is derived from a genetically abnormal cell, such as a cell from an animal or person with a genetic disease, and

         a recipient cell;

- 15        introducing the donor cell or nucleus into the recipient cell to produce an aneuploid cell;

         maintaining the aneuploid cell in a suitable environment for a period sufficient to allow the donor nucleus to be reprogrammed;

         optionally subjecting the aneuploid cell to an activation step; and

- 20        generating a reprogrammed genetically abnormal cell with an equivalent genetic composition to the said abnormal donor cell nucleus from said reprogrammed aneuploid cell by removal, destruction or loss of the recipient cell nucleus or nuclear DNA from said reprogrammed aneuploid cell.

18.    A method of restoring or improving function of a tissue or organ, said  
25    method including

         providing

         an animal, and

         one or more reprogrammed cells according to Claim 1 or derivatives of said cells;

- 30        transferring the cells or derivatives thereof to the animal, preferably at or near the site of said tissue or organ; and

allowing the transferred cells or derivatives thereof to repopulate said tissue or organ.

19. A method of gene therapy, said method including providing

5

an animal, and

one or more genetically modified, reprogrammed cells according to Claim 16 or derivatives of said cells;

transferring the cells or derivatives thereof to the animal; and

allowing said cells or derivatives thereof to repopulate in said animal to

10 provide gene therapy.

20. A method according to Claim 1, further including the step of generating a cell line, tissue, organ or animal embryo from said reprogrammed cell.

21. A method according to Claim 20, further including the step of  
15 generating a non-human animal from said animal embryo.

22. A method according to Claim 16, including the further step of generating a genetically modified cell, cell line, tissue or organ or a transgenic animal embryo from said reprogrammed cell.

23. A method according to Claim 22, further including the step of  
20 generating a non-human transgenic animal from said animal embryo.

24. A cell produced by the method of Claim 1.

25. A genetically modified cell produced by the method of Claim 16.

26. A cell, cell line, tissue, organ or animal embryo produced by the method of Claim 20.

27. A genetically modified cell, cell line, tissue or organ or transgenic  
25 animal embryo produced by the method of Claim 22.

28. A non-human animal produced by the method of Claim 21.

29. A non-human transgenic animal produced by the method of Claim 23.

30. A method of generating an animal embryo which method includes providing

a donor nucleus, and

a recipient cell; and

introducing the donor nucleus into to the recipient cell to produce an aneuploid cell;

optionally subjecting the aneuploid cell to an activation step;

generating a reprogrammed diploid cell from said aneuploid cell by removal, destruction or loss of the recipient cell nucleus or nuclear DNA from said aneuploid cell; and

generating an animal embryo from said reprogrammed diploid cell.

31. A method of generating a transgenic animal embryo said method including

providing

a donor nucleus which has been genetically modified to eliminate or reduce an undesirable activity or to provide for, or increase, a desirable activity, and

a recipient cell;

adding the donor nucleus to the recipient cell to produce a genetically modified aneuploid cell;

optionally subjecting the aneuploid cell to an activation step;

generating a reprogrammed diploid cell from said aneuploid cell by removal, destruction or loss of the recipient cell nucleus or nuclear DNA from said aneuploid cell; and

generating a transgenic animal embryo from said reprogrammed diploid cell.

32. A method of preparing an aneuploid or reprogrammed diploid cell which method includes

providing

a donor nucleus,

5 an exogenous nucleic acid molecule, and

a recipient cell;

introducing the donor nucleus and the exogenous nucleic acid molecule into the recipient cell to produce an aneuploid cell; and

10 optionally generating a reprogrammed diploid cell from said aneuploid cell by removal, destruction or loss of the recipient cell nucleus or nuclear DNA.

33. A method of generating a transgenic animal embryo which method includes

providing

a donor nucleus,

15 an exogenous nucleic acid molecule, and

a recipient cell;

introducing the donor nucleus and the exogenous nucleic acid molecule into the recipient cell to produce an aneuploid cell;

20 optionally generating a reprogrammed diploid cell from said aneuploid cell by removal, destruction or loss of the recipient cell nucleus or nuclear DNA; and

generating a transgenic animal embryo from the aneuploid or reprogrammed diploid cell.

34. A method of preparing a reprogrammed diploid embryonic cell or embryo which method includes

25 providing

a donor cell or donor cell nucleus, and

a recipient oocyte or embryonic cell;

introducing the donor cell or donor cell nucleus into the recipient oocyte or embryonic cell to produce an aneuploid cell;

30 maintaining the aneuploid cell in a suitable environment for a period sufficient to allow the donor cell nucleus to be reprogrammed;

optionally subjecting the aneuploid cell to an activation step; and  
generating a reprogrammed diploid embryonic cell or embryo from said  
reprogrammed aneuploid cell by removal, destruction or loss of the recipient cell  
nucleus or nuclear DNA from said reprogrammed aneuploid cell or one or more of  
5 its daughter cells.